

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD
24TH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
May 6-7, 2011

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

Resolutions and Memorials

The assembly approved the following resolutions:

S. A. 11.05.01, Received as information the audit report for fiscal year 2010.

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly receives as information the report of the auditors of the synod's financial statements for the fiscal year ending 2010, subject to the receipt of the appropriate signatures.

S. A. 11.05.02, Approved a memorial on Energy Stewardship.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the congregations, administrative offices, and outdoor ministry facilities of this synod be encouraged to offer a public witness of their care for creation by making a commitment to reduce their "ecological footprint" through promoting and adopting energy stewardship measures by: (1) doing an assessment of energy use in their facilities; (2) taking steps to reduce energy use; (3) encouraging their members to save energy in their homes; and (4) sharing information on the steps taken with the synod's "Green Team" as a way to encourage others to similar actions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this synod memorialize the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at its 2011 Churchwide Assembly to challenge all expressions of the ELCA to reduce their energy-related carbon emissions by at least 5 percent per year, with an ultimate goal of reducing our overall emissions by 25-40 percent by 2020, and to share this commitment and steps taken to achieve it in a public way in official publications and communication channels of this church.

S. A. 11.05.03, Approved a memorial, proclaiming 2011 as the International Year for People of African Descent.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly memorializes the 2011 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to:

1. Support 2011 as the United Nations "International Year of People of African Descent" by recognizing and celebrating the rich history, diverse cultures, vast contributions and gifts for ministry of people of African descent within the ELCA and society.
2. Acknowledge this proclamation within every expression of the ELCA community and its affiliates by educating people about and participating in this international year through ministry, forums, presentations as well as artistic, cultural and worship expressions that lift up and affirm the gifts of people of African descent.
3. Continue efforts to eradicate racism by examining the factors inhibiting people of color from experiencing the fullness of leadership and inclusion in this church and society.
4. Safeguard and pray for the rights and work of human rights defenders, who fight to end all forms of racism and discrimination both domestically and internationally.

5. Advocate for full social, economic and cultural inclusion for ethnic-specific and multicultural ministries and pastors within congregations, synods and churchwide organization.
6. Utilize the resources of this church to foster deeper cross-cultural relationships between European Americans and people of color as the ELCA lives into the future as a welcoming and multicultural church.
7. Deepen the ELCA's call to serve its companion churches in Africa and around the globe by respecting and affirming cultural diversity.

S. A. 11.05.04, Approved a resolution calling the Church to speak and act on preventing bullying, harassment, and related violence.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod encourages new partnerships among our congregations, with other synods, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, Lutheran School Associations, Lutherans Concerned/North America, Lutheran Social Services organizations, public schools, counseling centers and other governmental organizations in order to support and offer preventative programs addressing bullying, harassment, and other related violence, especially with higher risk populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these partnerships be encouraged to create or join with existing preventative programs which:

- a. utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials,
- b. raise participants' awareness about the issue,
- c. focus on prevention,
- d. seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior,
- e. create partnerships between youth and adults,
- f. address the use and abuse of social media and technology, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod develop an anti-bullying policy for the synod, through the collaboration of the Lutheran/Bryson LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Transsexual & Bi-Sexual) Task Force and the LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) Board, to be presented for approval to the Synod Council and then shared at next year's Synod Assembly, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT each congregation strive to develop an anti-bullying policy by next year's Synod Assembly, and to have trainings and conversations with their leaders and members, with the Lutheran/Bryson Task Force and LYO Board available as resources, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT each congregation have conversations with schools and other community groups and professionals in their communities, to find ways to partner with each other, to develop resources for support and education, and to establish themselves as safe places, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT these partnerships seek funding for these efforts from a combination of existing funds and new funding sources not otherwise accessible individually such as foundation grants, synod and other Lutheran organizational grants, private and governmental funding sources.

S. A. 11.05.05, Approved a spending authorization for fiscal year 2012.

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts a spending authorization in the amount of \$2,548,880 for fiscal year 2012.

S. A. 11.05.06, Approved a resolution by which the synod claims and practices an anti-racist identity:

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod shall claim and practice an anti-racist identity and actively seek full participation and shared power in its committees, task forces, policies, procedures, and practices and in its mission and ministries; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod place a high priority on anti-racism education, training, and awareness within the Synod and among its organizations, conferences, congregations, and members; examine its own systems, institutional and cultural practices for racist policies, procedures, and practices and intentionally change those that do not reflect an anti-racist identity, that we may dismantle racism in its various manifestations wherever it may be found; and be it further

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, through its Bishop and other leaders call upon its organizations, conferences, congregations, and members through prayer, education, attitude shifts, and actions to diligently work to be anti-racist in their own practices and lives; and prayerfully and actively support anti-racism education, training, and work as central to its future.

S. A. 11.05.07, Approved a memorial calling for the Church to speak and act on preventing bullying, harassment, and related violence.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage new partnerships among our congregations, synods, outdoor ministries, campus ministries, Lutheran School Associations, Lutherans Concerned/North America, Lutheran Social Services organizations, public schools, counseling centers and other governmental organizations in order to support and offer preventative programs addressing bullying, harassment, and other related violence, especially with higher risk populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage these partnerships to create or join with existing preventative programs which:

- a. utilize positive, inclusive, empowering and developmentally appropriate materials,
- b. raise participants' awareness about the issue,
- c. focus on prevention,
- d. seek to change bystander behavior into ally behavior,
- e. create partnerships between youth and adults,
- f. address the use and abuse of social media and technology, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage these partnerships to seek funding for these efforts from a combination of existing funds and new funding sources not otherwise accessible individually such as foundation grants, synod and other Lutheran organizational grants, private and governmental funding sources, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod memorialize the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to encourage, support, and publicize new partnerships in ministry that emerge in our church addressing the prevention of bullying, harassment, and related forms of violence, especially with higher risk populations.

S. A. 11.05.08, Approved a resolution of thanks to those assisting with the assembly:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we offer our appreciation and thankful applause to all those who prepared for, planned, and arranged the countless interconnecting details for this Assembly:

To youth from Helping Hands Day, the Floor Page Coordinator and all Assembly floor pages, our Parliamentarian, the Synod Communications team, the staff from CCI Communications, Franconia Mennonite Church whose gracious hospitality is a true blessing, our food service providers, prayer partners, and sign language interpreters;

To the Worship Committee, and for all leaders, speakers, and musicians who opened our lips and our minds to embrace God's word and beckon God's spirit; to the Committee on Elections, the Committee on Reference and Counsel, and the Committee on Nominations, for their dedicated work and contribution to the orderly functioning of the Assembly process;

To our presenter, Dr. Rodger Nishioka, Associate Professor of Christian Education, Columbia Theological Seminary, for challenging us to new ways of doing ministry with youth and young adults;

To the ELCA representative, The Rev. Dr. Gregory Villalon, Associate Executive Director for Ministry Leadership, Congregational and Synodical Mission, for his missional focus and support of synod ministries;

To Bishop Claire S. Burkat, for her faithful ambassadorship for Jesus Christ, especially in this synod and in the ELCA;

To the Synod Council and Officers of the Synod, the synod Administrative Staff, synod Program Staff, and synod Pastoral Staff.

For all these gifts of God and for all other random acts of kindness, and unplanned moments of reunion and renewal, reconciliation and resolve, that we experienced in these holy days together, *solī Deo gloria!*

ELECTIONS

Secretary: Raymond Miller (2015)

Treasurer: Janet Neff (2015)

Synod Council – Clergy: Sandra Brown (2014), Charles Leonard (2014), Christopher Weidner (2014)

Synod Council – Lay Woman at Large: Jill Meuser (2014)

Synod Council – Lay Male at Large: Fred Brown (2014)

Synod Council – Chester Conference Representative (Male): Rodman Rothermel (2014)

Synod Council – Lower Bucks Conference Representative (Male): Walter Shultz (2014)

Synod Council – Youth (Male): Malcolm Davis (2013)

Synod Council – Young Adult (Male): Brandon Starnes (2013)

Synod Council -- Lower Montgomery Conference Representative (Female): *Referred to Synod Council*

Synod Council -- Upper Montgomery Conference Representative (Male): *Referred to Synod Council*

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