

Report of the Synod Council

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS
OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Show Me: We Want to See Jesus

May 3-4, 2013

**Franconia Mennonite Meetinghouse
Telford, Pennsylvania**

Friday Morning, May 3, 2013

Service of Holy Communion

The Service of Holy Communion began at 9:30 a.m. with the Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, serving as the Presiding Minister and Preacher. Also providing worship leadership were the following:

- Assisting Minister: Ms. Patricia Robinson;
- Psalm and Prayer Leader: the Reverend Janet Peterman;
- Readers: the Reverend Neil Harrison and Mr. Malcolm Davis; and
- Musicians: the Reverends Dwight Mason, Bruce Todd, and Don Wright; Ms. Yvonne Lemo, and Mr. Justin Rimbo.

The Worship Planning Team included the Reverends Jay Gamelin, Jennifer Ollikainen, and Janet Peterman, and Mr. Justin Rimbo. The Reverends Ghislaine Cotnoir and Donna Wright directed the worship assistants.

The Bible readings were Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 8, 1 John 1:1-7, and John 12:20-26.

Bishop's Sermon

“Of all the disciples they could have approached, why did these Greeks go to Philip?” Bishop Burkat asked as she began her sermon on John 12:20-26. Why did they not go to Matthew or Thomas? Why did they go to Philip and say to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” The answer, according to the bishop, is found in John 1:43, where Philip is the one who Jesus finds and says, “Follow me.” Philip immediately goes to Nathanael and, when Nathanael initially resists Philip’s invitation to meet Jesus, Philip persists and says, “Come and see.”

“Philip,” claimed Bishop Burkat, “was not seeing the world through Jesus-colored glasses. As soon as he encountered Jesus in Galilee, it was like the Divine Optometrist put just the right lenses in front of his eyes and he could see things clearly for the first time... Philip had recovered his God-sight and wanted others to experience the same clarity of vision he had.”

“In the same way,” Bishop Burkat continued, “when you recover your God-sight, everything becomes clearer, both positive and negative. You see the beauty all around you. But you also begin to see the injustice, the heartache, the sin of the world around you as well. And, when you see it, I mean really look at what is in need of attention and action, these new glasses you’ve

been given enable you to see what others overlook. And those glasses enable you to see Jesus in ways others often miss.

“In the next two days we will be discerning and discussing new ways to see Jesus, to show Jesus, to experience Jesus,” Bishop Burkat said. She cited the following examples:

- Living Gospel Ministries and its mission developer, the Reverend Linda Manson, who ministers to those leaving the Philadelphia prison system; and
- The ministry of Christ the King Church of the Deaf at the Valley View Home for the Aged Deaf and Deaf-Blind in Delaware County.

Bishop Burkat told the assembly, “My sisters and brothers, God has given you and your church everything you need to see, hear, taste, smell, and touch Jesus. It is through the faith given to us that we have the power of God-sight. But we will need to wash the sleep out of our eyes, remove the cataracts from our vision, and get the right prescription for our Jesus-colored glasses.

“You’ll need three pairs,” she indicated.

- “You’ll need one to correct your near-sightedness. Sometimes we can only see what’s right in front of us.
- “You’ll also need glasses to correct your far-sightedness. Sometimes ... we fail to see the need of someone right in front of us.
- “And we all need a pair of reading glasses” when we pick up the Bible.

“Our goal at this assembly,” she concluded, “is to give you tools to go back to your congregations as fully equipped Philips, so that you can invite others to come and see, hear, taste, smell, touch, and feel that the Lord is good.”

Order for the Opening of the Assembly

At 11:00 a.m. Bishop Burkat led the Order for the Opening of the 26th annual Assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Welcome and Introductions

Bishop Burkat introduced the Assembly Presenters, Pastor Jay Gamelin, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC, and Mr. Justin Rimbo, Music Director, Jacob’s Well, Minneapolis, MN; the ELCA Representative, the Reverend Neil Harrison, Program Director for Congregational Renewal, Congregation and Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA; the Parliamentarian, the Reverend Dr. Larry Smoose; the Regional Representative, Portico Benefit Services, Ms. Barbara Debski; and Synod Officers, Synod Council members, and Deans. She invited rostered leaders, new to the synod since the last assembly, to introduce themselves.

Report of the Registrar

Ms. Cynta Outterbridge, Registrar, reported that the total number of voting members was 493, the total number of voting members registered was 423, and the number of voting members needed for a quorum was 329. Bishop Burkat declared a quorum.

Report of the Secretary

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, presented, and the assembly approved the proposed program as printed in *The Bulletin of Reports*. He then presented as information the Rules of Procedure as printed in *The Bulletin of Reports*. By common consent, the assembly approved the following rule: "The Synod Assembly shall limit each speaker from the floor to two minutes, alternating *for* and *against* whenever possible, and allowing someone who has not spoken on a particular issue from the floor to speak before someone speaks a second or additional time."

He reported that the Synod Council approved the minutes of the 25th annual assembly on June 7, 2012 (S. C. 12.06.10).

He presented as information the reports of the various committees, task forces, organizations, and institutions of the synod.

Report of the Constitution Committee

Secretary Miller presented the report of the Constitution Committee, in which the committee recommended the approval of a series of amendments to the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*.

Pending Constitutional Items

Secretary Miller moved the following constitutional amendments, approved by the 2012 Synod Assembly by the required 2/3rds vote, and requiring a second approval by 2/3rds vote of this assembly:

Voting Privileges for Retired Rostered Leaders at Synod Assembly

S. A. 13.05.01 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following constitutional amendment to S7.23.:

~~S7.23. All retired ordained ministers, all retired associates in ministry, all retired deaconesses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and all retired diaconal ministers of this church, all of whose names appear on the rosters of this synod, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote at all meetings of the Synod Assembly.~~ The presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and such other official representatives of this church as may be designated from time to time by the Church Council shall also have voice but not vote in the meetings of the Synod Assembly. Like privileges shall be accorded to those additional persons whom the Synod Assembly or Synod Council shall from time to time designate.

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Update Terminology

S. A. 13.05.02 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following constitutional amendment to S14.22.:

S14.22. The provisions in the churchwide documents and such provisions as may be developed by the Division of Ministry appropriate churchwide unit governing associates in ministry shall apply in this synod.

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Secretary Miller moved the approval of the following bylaw amendments, as reviewed and recommended by the Constitution Committee, and requiring approval by 2/3rds vote of one Synod Assembly:

Nominating Committee

S. A. 13.05.03 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S9.03.01.a.:

~~S9.03.01.a. a. Upon the recommendation of the vice-president, the The Synod Council shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The committee shall be composed of members of the Synod Council and others with the goal of having representation at least one representative from each conference. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be nominated by the committee for election to the Synod Council. In the event that a particular conference cannot be represented by a member of the Synod Council a representative of that conference shall be asked to serve on the committee.~~

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Synod Council Conference Representatives

S. A. 13.05.04 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S9.08.01.b.:

~~S9.08.01.b. Representatives of congregations in each conference shall meet prior to the annual meeting of the Synod Assembly and shall nominate at least one ~~two~~ lay persons from their conference for the Synod Council, one nominee per conference to be elected by the assembly at the annual meeting. These lay seats assigned to conferences shall alternate every six years (or two terms) between male and female Council members. The Nominating Committee shall receive these nominations from the conferences to include in its reports. ~~In the event that a conference has not submitted its nominees to the Nominating Committee by February 15 of the calendar year in which its representatives will be elected, the Nominating Committee shall designate the conference nominees. With this exception, no nominations may be made by Nominating Committee or~~ Voting members at the annual meeting of the assembly may nominate from the floor persons from the assigned conferences for election to the Synod Council. ~~from the floor at the annual meeting of the assembly.~~~~

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Congregational Membership of Synod Council Members

S. A. 13.05.05 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S9.08.01.d.:

S9.08.01.d. No nomination for Synod Council shall be made if that nominee's congregation already has a member on the Synod Council or if a member of a congregation has already been nominated, provided, however, that no nominee shall be ineligible if the Synod Council member from that congregation is an officer of this Synod and/or one of them is a Synod Council youth or young adult member. The Synod Council may make exceptions to this requirement in order to promote greater diversity and/or inclusivity.

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Synod Council Vacancies

S. A. 13.05.06 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S10.03.01.:

S10.03.01. Should a member of the Synod Council resign or lose his or her membership on the Synod Council, the Synod Council shall elect, by majority vote, a successor who shall serve until the unexpired term is completed. A Synod Council member, who has been elected by the Synod Council to fill an unexpired term, is eligible to be elected for two consecutive terms after the unexpired term has ended if the unexpired term is less than one-and-one-half years.

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Conferences

S. A. 13.05.07 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S12.01.05.:

S12.01.05. ~~Each conference shall meet in full assembly at least one time per year. ,which assembly shall consist of one ordained minister and two lay delegates (one male, one female) from each congregation. Each institution of this church serving in the territory of the conference may be given the privilege of voice and vote by the conference by means of a delegate to the conference assembly who is a member of this church. The method of election and term of representation of delegates shall be determined by each congregation and institution. Associates in ministry and ordained ministers in good standing who are not serving as specified delegates and who reside on the territory of the conference and/or serve under call on the territory of the conference will be given the privilege of voice at the conference assembly. Each conference shall be responsible for developing a plan for fair representation of rostered leaders, lay members of congregations, institutions, and agencies on the territory of the conference.~~

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

S. A. 13.05.08 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S12.01.11.:

S12.01.11. Each conference in assembly shall elect a dean who shall be a pastor under call serving within the territory of the conference. The quorum for the conference assembly at which the dean is to be elected shall consist of clergy and lay representation from a majority of the congregations in the conference. The conference shall seek to assure that the representational principles stated in +S6.04., +S6.04.A01., +S6.04.B09., and S6.04.C2. are fulfilled. If there is no quorum for the conference assembly at which the dean is to be elected, the dean shall be appointed by the bishop of this synod in consultation with the Committee of Deans. If the conference does not call a conference assembly for the election of the dean, the bishop of this synod shall call the conference assembly.

The Reverend Gordon Simmons made a motion to amend the first sentence of the proposed amendment of **S12.01.11** to read as follows: The quorum for the conference assembly at which the dean is to be elected shall consist of clergy and/or lay representation from a majority of the congregations in the conference.

The Synod Assembly defeated the motion.

The Reverend Serena Sellers made a motion to amend the first sentence of the proposed amendment of **S12.01.11** to read as follows: The quorum for the conference assembly at which the dean is to be elected shall ~~consist of clergy and lay representation from~~ consist of a majority of the congregations in the conference.

The Synod Assembly approved the motion.

The assembly approved the amendment as amended by the required 2/3rds vote.

S. A. 13.05.09 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S12.01.11.a.:

S12.01.11.a. The ~~interim~~ interim pastors of the ~~Interim Ministry Network~~ rostered in this synod in assembly shall elect a dean, who shall be an interim pastor ~~fully endorsed under call by the Synod Council~~, or actively seeking placement for a an interim call, serving within the territory of this synod. The term of the Dean of Interim Ministry shall be the same as specified in S12.01.12. It is understood that the Dean of Interim Ministry advises, assists, and confers with the Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod as specified in S12.01.13 and relates to, consults with, and ~~is a member of~~ convenes the Interim Ministry ~~Network~~ gatherings of this synod. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Dean of Interim Ministry, the ~~Interim Ministry Network~~ the interim pastors rostered in this synod in assembly shall elect a dean for a new three-year term.

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

S. A. 13.05.10 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S12.01.12.:

S12.01.12. The term of office for each dean shall be three years, and a dean may serve no more than two consecutive terms. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the dean, the ~~Conference Executive Committee~~ the bishop of this synod may appoint an interim dean to serve until an election can be held ~~at the next meeting of the Conference Assembly~~.

The assembly approved the amendment by the required 2/3rds vote.

Secretary Miller moved that the Synod Assembly approve the proposed amendments to **S12.01.31**, **S12.01.42**, and **S12.01.51** *en bloc*. The assembly approved the motion to consider these amendments *en bloc* by common consent.

S. A. 13.05.11 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly approves the following bylaw amendment to S12.01.31., S12.01.42., and S12.01.51.:

~~**S12.01.31** The bishop shall assign a synod staff person to each conference who will spend time within the conference territory and who may have an office on the territory.~~

~~**S12.01.42** Other committees may be designated as the need and the ability to organize them arise. ;each conference shall be encouraged to form a Social Ministry Committee, an Evangelism and Outreach Committee, a Communication Committee, a Financial Support Committee, and a Youth Ministry Committee.~~

~~**S12.01.51** Conference Coordinating Committee (CCC).~~

~~a. The deans and chairpersons of the conferences together with the synod staff persons assigned to the conferences and the bishop shall meet at least twice a year.~~

~~b. The CCC meetings shall be chaired by the bishop and may be attended by others as deemed necessary by the bishop or required by the constitution and bylaws.~~

~~c. The CCC shall be a program oriented body whose purpose is to coordinate the work of the conferences, to work with the synod staff in identifying the resources needed for ministry and informing the church and its expressions of such need, and to exchange reports and proposals with Synod Council.~~

The assembly approved the amendments by the required 2/3rds vote.

Secretary Miller thanked the assembly for their patience and the members of the Constitution Committee for their service.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Reverend Sandra Brown, Nominating Committee, presented the report:

TICKET 1, Vice President (One to be elected for a term ending 2017)

The committee nominated Ms. Tracey Beasley and Ms. Doreen Kinzler. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared the ticket closed.

TICKET 2, Synod Council – Clergy (Three to be elected for terms ending 2016)

The committee shall nominated the Reverends Sarah Anderson-Rajarigam, William Rex, Karl Richard, and Paul Sorcek. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared the ticket closed.

TICKET 3, Synod Council – Clergy (One to be elected for a term ending 2015)

Pastor Sandra Brown announced that those not elected on Ticket 2 would be placed on Ticket 3.

TICKET 4, Synod Council – Lay Man at Large (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee nominated Mr. Bert Glenn. There were no nominations from the floor. Since Ticket 4 includes those not elected on Ticket 9, Bishop Burkat declared the ticket closed.

TICKET 5, Synod Council – Lay Woman at Large (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee nominated Ms. Diane Casey and Sister Jane Roper. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared the ticket closed.

TICKET 6, Synod Council – Central Philadelphia Conference Representative (Lay, Man)
(One to be elected for a term ending 2015)

The committee nominated Mr. Henry Boyd. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared Mr. Boyd elected.

TICKET 7, Synod Council – Delaware Conference Representative (Lay, Woman) (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee nominated Ms. Joyce Brown Adams. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared Ms. Adams elected.

TICKET 8, Synod Council – Northeast Philadelphia Conference Representative (Lay, Woman) (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee nominated Ms. Doreen Kinzler and Ms. Dorothy Wilson. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared the ticket closed.

TICKET 9, Synod Council – Upper Montgomery Conference Representative (Lay, Male)
(One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee nominated Mr. John Ungerman and Mr. Karl Segletes. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared the ticket closed.

TICKET 10, Synod Council – Youth Representative (Lay, Man) (One to be elected for a term ending 2015)

The committee nominated Mr. Douglas Parry. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared Mr. Parry elected.

TICKET 11, Synod Council – Young Adult Representative (Lay, Woman) (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee nominated Ms. Adrienne Nash Melendez. There were no nominations from the floor. Bishop Burkat declared Ms. Melendez elected.

TICKET 12, Synod Council – Young Adult Representative (Lay, Man) (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

The committee presented no nominees. There were no nominations from the floor.

Pastor Brown thanked the members of the Nominating Committee.

Report of the Treasurer

Audit Report

Ms. Janet Huber Neff, Treasurer, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, began her report by asking for prayers of healing for former Treasurer, Mr. Richard Reimet.

Ms. Neff reviewed the *Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accountants*, dated January 31, 2013. She expressed appreciation for the assistance of Mr. Rodman Rothermel, Chair, Audit Committee.

Ms. Neff presented the following resolution, which the assembly approved:

S. A. 13.05.12 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the report of the auditors of the synod's financial statements for the fiscal year ending 2012.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Neff reviewed the synod's financial results for fiscal year 2012. She reported that the synod's Total Net Assets as of January 31, 2013, were \$2,489,796. The synod's income for fiscal year 2012 consisted of Partnership Support, \$2,137,127; Other Contributions, \$606,400; Registration Fees, \$198,353; and Investment Income, \$185,343. The synod's expenses for fiscal year consisted of Operating Expenses, \$2,145,072; ELCA Proportionate Share (53.5%), \$1,088,750; and Property Management, \$170,486.

She reported that Partnership Support declined from \$2,254,260 in 2011 to \$2,137,127 in 2012, a reduction of \$210,645. She noted that, of the synod's 160 congregations, 29, or 18%, contributed 10% or more of regular giving to Partnership Support; 66, or 41%, contributed 5 to 9.9%; 44, or 28%, contributed 0.1 to 4.9%; and 21, or 13%, provided no support. She added that 74 congregations maintained or increased their Partnership Support to the synod in 2012.

She explained that the synod's funds are divided into four categories: **Unrestricted**, **Temporarily Restricted**, **Mission**, and **Permanently Restricted**. She then reported the activity in each fund for fiscal year 2012:

- **Unrestricted** income, consisting of Partnership Support, unrestricted fundraising, and some miscellaneous revenues, decreased by \$172,000 in 2012. Unrestricted expenses, consisting of ELCA Proportionate Share, Operating Expenses, and Gifts to Agencies/Organizations decreased by \$143,417.
- **Temporarily Restricted** Income consists of Designated Giving for Agencies, Registration Fees for Synod Events, and some miscellaneous revenues. Temporarily Restricted Expenses include Designated Giving to Agencies and Expenses Related to Synod Events. Temporarily Restricted net income was \$32,000.
- **Mission** income consisted of ELCA Grants, restricted fundraising, and distributions from the *Fund for Mission*. Mission expenses included Mission Programs (mission, global vision, and youth ministry), Support for New Mission Congregations, and Ministry with People in Poverty. Mission income was \$295,000, and Mission expenses were \$466,624. There were no distributions from the *Fund for Mission*. Ms. Neff noted, "Because we believe mission is critical to our synodical purpose, we invested in \$294,542 in mission in 2012."
- **Permanently Restricted** income are funds restricted for specific purposes, and Permanently Restricted expenses are directly related to those sources of income. Permanently Restricted net come was \$33,000.

Ms. Neff then identified 2012 Actual Expenses by Major Purpose:

- Partnerships: \$1,264,981;
- Mission: \$466,624;
- Office of the Bishop: \$606,014;
- Synod Administration: \$273,291; and
- Leadership: \$74,581.

The assembly approved the following resolution:

S. A. 13.05.13 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly receives as information the report of the Treasurer for the fiscal year 2012.

First Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Ms. Jill Meuser, Chair, Committee on Reference and Counsel, reported that the committee had received no resolutions or memorials.

Report of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia

The Reverend Dr. Philip Krey, President, Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, thanked the Reverends John Richter and Cynthia Krommes, and Dr. Addie Butler, for their service as members of the seminary's board.

The Reverend Stina Schaeffer, Gloria Dei, Huntingdon Valley, described her experience as a student at the Philadelphia Seminary and thanked the assembly for the opportunity to serve the church.

Noting that next year marks the Philadelphia Seminary's 150th anniversary, President Krey challenged the assembly's voting members to participate in an effort to raise up 150 more students for enrollment at the seminary and "to take away all obstacles" for all of the seminary's students by raising \$10 million in scholarships.

The Reverend John Puotinen, the Philadelphia Seminary's Vice President for Philanthropy, offered two ideas by which congregations may "identify and nurture those among them who have gifts for ministry:" (1) sponsor a Seminary Sunday and (2) start a scholarship fund.

President Krey reported that the Philadelphia Seminary has developed a new curriculum, which he described as "flexible, affordable, and relevant."

In closing, President Krey noted that, at the Philadelphia Seminary's Alumni Convocation this past week, Bishop Burkat was recognized by her peers as "a distinguished alumnus."

Prayer

The Reverend John Berntsen offered prayer.

The assembly recessed for lunch.

Friday Afternoon, May 3, 2013

Prayer

Pastor Jay Gamelin introduced a video which invited viewers to “look at Jesus.” After the video, he offered prayer

First Balloting for General Elections

The Reverend Rebecca Eisenhart, Chair, Committee on Elections, explained the balloting procedure. The assembly then cast votes for the first ballot of Tickets 1, 2, and 9.

Report of the Churchwide Organization

Stating that “it is a joy to be here,” the ELCA Representative, Pastor Neil Harrison, brought greetings from the synod’s “partners in the ELCA;” the Presiding Bishop, the Reverend Mark Hanson; and the Executive Director of the ELCA’s Congregational and Synodical Mission Unit, the Reverend Stephen Bouman. Using the ELCA’s 25th Anniversary tag line, *God’s Work, Our Hands; Always Being Made New*, he reminded the assembly, “We are all the ELCA.” Noting that, in church life, the key is “relationships, relationships, and relationships,” he thanked Ms. Patricia Robinson for her service to the ELCA as this synod’s Vice President. He also thanked the synod for sharing its leaders with the churchwide organization: Bishop Burkat, Secretary Miller, and the Reverends Patricia Davenport, Peggy Wuertele, Katie Day, Linda Manson, Gwendolyn King, and Mark Wimmer.

Pastor Harrison then described the ELCA’s two priorities: (1) Accompanying congregations as growing centers for mission, and (2) Building capacity for evangelical witness and service in the world to alleviate suffering and injustice. In that regard, he said, “Every person is a missionary, every pastor is a mission director, and every congregation is a mission center.”

He introduced a video featuring a message from Bishop Hanson and highlighting the ministries of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Palm City, FL; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Myanmar; and St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoboken, NJ.

Noting that 80% of ELCA ministries are funded by mission support from synods, Pastor Harrison thanked the synod for its support. In closing, he invited the assembly to “tell the story of what God is up to in your congregations ... in mission and service for the sake of the world.”

Recognition of Anniversary Celebrants

Bishop Burkat invited the Reverends Donald Hagey and David Krewson to address the assembly on the 50th anniversary of their ordination.

“How ironic it is for me to stand before you, talking about my 50 years of ministry,” Pastor Hagey told the assembly, “when I remember, as a young pastor, hearing older pastors tell stories about their wonderful years in ministry. What a marvelous experience it is,” he said, “to be invited into people’s lives [as a pastor] and to guide them in God’s way.” He expressed thanks

to his spouse, Ms. Mary Ann Hagey, and for the inspiration that his late father, Mr. Walter Hagey, who served as this synod's treasurer for 30 years, gave him.

Looking at those in attendance at the assembly, Pastor Krewson remarked that he is "looking at Jesus in each of you." He expressed thanks for the relationships that he developed throughout the synod and for "the new blood" that has come into this synod. He thanked his spouse, Ms. Doris Krewson, who he described as, first, his "partner in ministry," and, second, his wife.

Bishop Burkat recognized rostered leaders celebrating significant anniversaries:

- 70th Anniversary of Ordination: the Reverend Donald Doll;
- 60th Anniversary of Ordination: the Reverends Paul Cornell, William Davis, Paul Howells, Lloyd Sheneman, Edward Treichel, and Howard Weidemoyer;
- 40th Anniversary of Ordination: the Reverends David Anderson, Lawrence Guenzel, Thomas Kadel, Margaret Krych, and Edward Oswald; and
- 25th Anniversary of Ordination: the Reverends Sandra Brown, Ghislaine Cotnoir, William Petry, Lindsay Rhodenbaugh, Bruce Thorsen, and Stephen Weisser.

Bishop Burkat also recognized the following congregations celebrating significant anniversaries:

- 250th Anniversary: St. Luke, Ferndale, and St. John, Spinnerstown;
- 175th Anniversary: St. Paul, Exton;
- 125th Anniversary: Immanuel, Norwood; and
- 100th Anniversary: St. Matthew, Woodlyn.

Presentation

Pastor Jay Gamelin began his presentation, *Postmodernism: Sharing Jesus in a Show Me Culture*, by offering a series of disclaimers:

- Sweeping generalizations,
- Perceptions, not always realities,
- Western culture, not global culture, and
- "Don't kill the messenger."

He proceeded to describe the church characteristics of pre-modernism, modernism, and post-modernism:

- Pre-modernism: mystery, story, local identity, dependence on authority, and sanctification;
- Modernism: reason, trust in authority, the mind, words, tribal identity, justification, and "tell me;"
- Post-modernism: global identity, tension between reason and mystery, character of Christ, skeptical of authority, whole person, justification and sanctification, and "show me."

He noted that the Internet changed everything. “Today we rely on images for information rather than words,” he said. “What you see is what you get.”

In moving from a “tell me” to a “show me” culture, Pastor Gamelin identified a basic problem in traditional Lutheran teaching: “We can do nothing to be saved” has often been misinterpreted as “We do nothing.” To those inclined to judge the Christian faith on the basis of the behavior of Christians, the perception of “doing nothing” undermines the understanding of grace that Lutherans seek to proclaim. As such, Pastor Gamelin advocates that “we keep Lutheran theology but get rid of the garbage of Lutheran culture.”

Pastor Gamelin outlined the tensions between old and new generations:

Old: “Tell me.”	New: “Show me.”
Old: “What church do you go to?”	New: “Do you believe in God?”
Old: “Listen to words.”	New: “Watch life.”
Old: Religion = Habits	New: Spiritual = Motivation

Pastor Gamelin observed that “we are in the midst of a new reformation,” which emphasizes the following:

- Lutheran theology, not culture;
- Priesthood of all believers;
- Discipleship, discipleship, discipleship; and
- “Thirsty people don’t want the cup.”

He remarked, “If we make disciples, we will get the church.”

He identified the following gifts of Lutheranism:

- Semper reformanda;
- Paradox, tension, simul, grace;
- Priesthood of all believers, discipleship;
- Entrepreneurial spirit; and
- Sanctification theology: *On the Freedom of A Christian* and *The Cost of Discipleship*.

He closed the presentation with prayer.

Mission Planning

Bishop Burkat reported that this synod now has 41 teams organized and active in mission planning and that last fall she convened a new Mission Planning Team “to encourage a culture of intentional mission in this synod.” Mr. Robert Fisher, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Interpretation and Communications, then introduced a video in which members of the Mission Planning Team described the scope of their work and the resources that they are developing. He told the assembly to watch for the website, www.ourchurchfuture.com, which is coming in September 2013.

Report of the Mission Investment Fund

The Reverend Mark Wimmer, Regional Manager, Mission Investment Fund, reminded the assembly that “the Mission Investment Fund is your and your congregation’s partner in investing and financial management.” He noted that the Mission Investment Fund provides building consultation services to congregations at no charge.

Report of Portico Benefit Services

Ms. Barbara Debski, Regional Representative, Portico Benefit Services, formerly the ELCA Board of Pensions, reported that Portico is committed to leading the ELCA through the changes mandated by healthcare reform and indicated that further details would be available in August 2013.

Prayer

Dr. Addie Butler offered prayer.

The assembly recessed for dinner, to participate in forums, and to visit the Mission Center.

Friday Evening, May 3, 2013

Prayer

Mr. Rimbo introduced a music video, after which Pastor Gamelin offered prayer.

First Report of the Committee on General Elections and Balloting

Pastor Eisenhart reported the results of the first ballots for Tickets 1, 2, and 9.

TICKET 1, Vice President (One to be elected for a term ending 2017)

364 total ballots, 364 valid ballots, 183 votes needed to elect

Tracey Beasley, 212; Doreen Kinzler, 152

Bishop Burkat declared Ms. Beasley elected and invited her to come forward. Ms. Beasley thanked the assembly and said that she was “honored and humbled to be your Vice President.”

TICKET 2, Synod Council – Clergy (Three to be elected for terms ending 2016)

364 total ballots, 364 valid ballots, 183 votes needed to elect

Sarah Anderson-Rajarigam, 284; Karl Richard, 263; Paul Sorcek, 228; William Rex, 191

Bishop Burkat declared the Reverends Sarah Anderson-Rajarigam, Karl Richard, and Paul Sorcek elected.

Since the Reverend William Rex was the only nominee on **TICKET 3, Synod Council -- Clergy**, Bishop Burkat declared Pastor Rex elected for a term ending 2015.

TICKET 9, Synod Council – Upper Montgomery Conference Representative (Lay, Male)

(One to be elected for a term ending 2016)

354 total ballots, 354 valid ballots, 178 votes needed to elect

John Ungerman, 195; Karl Segletes, 159

Bishop Burkat declared Mr. Ungerman elected.

The assembly cast votes for the first ballot of Tickets 4 and 8.

Second Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

After reporting that the committee had not received any late resolutions or memorials, Ms. Jill Meuser reminded the assembly that, since many Churchwide Assembly actions are often the result of synod memorials, she invited voting members to consider the importance of submitting memorials at future assemblies.

The assembly saw a series of *Mission Moment* videos.

Report of Reformation 500

The Reverend Stephen Godsall-Myers, Chair, Reformation 500 Team, invited the assembly to save the date, October 31, 2017, for the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He reported that the team is developing plans: (1) to gather and share resources, (2) to facilitate networking among synod, institutions, and congregations, and (3) to create and publicize 500th anniversary events.

Prayer

Mr. Rimbo led the assembly in song and Pastor Gamelin guided the assembly in prayer.

The assembly recessed.

Saturday Morning, May 4, 2013

Worship

Mr. Waverly Alston, the Music Director of the Welcome Church, Philadelphia, led the assembly in an energetic, four-part rendition of the gospel song, “He Has Done Marvelous Things.” Mr. Troy Chambers played the piano.

Pastor Janet Peterman then read John 20:19-23 and invited the assembly into an experience of centering prayer through song and silence. Prayer partners for worshipers were available at various locations in the meeting room.

Following worship, Vice President Robinson presented a framed print and a bouquet of flowers to Bishop Burkat in recognition of the 35th anniversary of her ordination. “We celebrate you as a person and a leader,” Vice President Robinson told Bishop Burkat, “and we are proud to have you as our leader.”

Bishop’s Address

“Yesterday we talked about Philip and the God-sight he gained by seeing the world through Jesus-colored glasses,” Bishop Burkat stated. “But this morning I want to shift the spotlight just to the side and consider those Greeks who were looking for Jesus.” She described the Greeks as outsiders who were looking for the light and noticed something about Jesus. She then posed three questions to the assembly:

- Who are “the Greeks” around you and your church that are the last people you would expect to be looking for Jesus?
- What are you doing in your church that would make other people notice, turn their head, cup their ear, sniff the air, so that other people will notice not just you, but “the itinerate rabbi” you are following?
- What is holding you back from leaving the safety of your church building in order to reach out to the Greeks who are seeking Jesus?

In response to these questions, Bishop Burkat offered the following comments:

- “The key is incarnating Christ in the world, rather than spending all our time trying to get people to come to church.”
- “Christians who are willing to take a risk will attract others to do similar work.”
- “We get stuck when we are discouraged and despondent, and we get stuck when we are competent and comfortable. Both postures breed a sort of complacency that distracts us from the very real opportunities and possibilities right in our neighborhoods to show Jesus.”
- “Now I know Lutherans are not big risk takers, or are we? Let me remind you that the name on each of your churches evokes the memory of one of the biggest risk-takers in history: Dr. Martin Luther... Martin Luther risked his life to answer the call: the call to courage, the call to connect, the call to creativity, and the call to lead people to Christ. Taking big risks for the gospel is in our [Lutheran] DNA.”
- “There are no age limits to risky discipleship.”

Bishop Burkat concluded, “Answering this call [to courage, to connect, to creativity, and to lead people to Christ] may mean fewer churches in terms of physical plants and congregations, but more ministries, missions, outreach efforts, and faith formation stations popping up, embodying, incarnating Jesus pitching a tent in our midst.

“And answering this call in our church buildings will mean that we will find new, creative ways to see Jesus, hear him speak, feel his healing touch, smell the aroma of the baking bread that is his body, taste the sweet wine that brings joy to our feasts and forgiveness to our relationships.

“And if you are not the adventuresome type, that’s okay. But don’t discourage the ones we are equipping, empowering and sending out. Please don’t stand on the sidelines complaining. Write a check, say a prayer, and encourage the risk takers to be the church outside. Grab some pompoms and start cheering for them!

“Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, ‘Sir, we wish to see Jesus.’ [John 12:20-21]

“And the people of God said, Come we’ll show you!”

Second Report of Committee on General Elections and Balloting

Pastor Eisenhart presented the results of the first ballot for Tickets 4 and 8.

TICKET 4, Synod Council – Lay Man at Large (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)
233 total ballots, 233 valid ballots, one invalid ballot, 117 votes needed to elect
Karl Segletes, 132; Bert Glenn, 101
Bishop Burkat declared Mr. Segletes elected.

TICKET 8, Synod Council – Northeast Philadelphia Conference Representative (Lay, Woman) (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)
233 total ballots, 233 valid ballots, one invalid ballot, 117 votes needed to elect
Doreen Kinzler, 204; Dorothy Wilson, 29
Bishop Burkat declared Ms. Kinzler elected.

The assembly then cast votes for the first ballot of Ticket 5.

Moment with Our Missionaries

Mr. David Neale, Chair, Tanzania Companionship Team, reported that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council recently approved a one-year extension of the call for Ms. Susan MacPherson and Mr. Tom MacPherson to serve as volunteer missionaries at the Irente Children's Home in the North Eastern Diocese of Tanzania, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Developed in cooperation between this synod and the Global Mission unit of the ELCA, this call would conclude on November 2014. He then introduced a video highlighting the ministry of Irente Children's Home.

The assembly received greetings from Ms. Susan MacPherson and Mr. Tom MacPherson by a means of a Skype connection. Mr. and Mrs. MacPherson thanked the assembly and the congregations of this synod for their support and prayers.

Mr. Neale concluded by offering prayer.

Malaria Campaign

Joined by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Malaria Campaign Team and dressed in a mosquito costume, Mr. Malcolm Davis, introduced a video highlighting the goals of the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Ms. Molly Beck Dean reported that one child dies from malaria in Africa every sixty seconds and that this disease can be prevented by education, inoculations, and the use of mosquito nets. The team is involved in visiting and educating congregations about the Malaria Campaign and has set a goal of raising \$100,000 by September 2013.

The Reverend Matt Staniz, St. Luke, Devon, shared with the assembly how his congregation was involved with the Malaria Campaign and invited other congregations to participate.

Ms. Alice Bell reported that this synod's Malaria Campaign fund raising goal has already been met and surpassed. She thanked the assembly for its offering of \$5,770 to the Malaria Campaign at the worship service on Friday.

Ms. Allison Wilcox encouraged congregations to invite team members to visit them and thanked the congregations that have already participated in the campaign.

Secretary Miller later announced that, at this date, \$120,459 has been contributed to this synod's Malaria Campaign, including the offering from the worship service on Friday. On behalf of the synod's Malaria Campaign team, he invited the assembly to "keep it going."

Presentation

Noting the fearfulness so pervasive in the world today, Pastor Gamelin offered the following words of hope: "We do not need to fear. God is in the mess cleaning up business."

After telling some personal stories about his journey of faith and his call to ministry, Pastor Gamelin described the beginning of his ministry at the Lutheran Campus Mission to Ohio State University. He noted that, when the campus mission changed its name to Jacob's Porch, more walked in and participated in the life of the mission. The focus of Jacob's Porch has been to engage the whole person in mission and service.

"What did God do on the eighth day?" he asked, emphasizing the re-creating power of God. "God returned to his work of creating," he continued. "How do we join God in creation?"

Having served as pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC, for the past two years, he offered the following observations about congregational life:

- "I am only an expert on my last congregation."
- "Pastors are not there to serve the members. The members are there to serve Jesus."
- "Young people want to see Jesus, not you."
- "The pew doesn't belong to you."
- The congregation consists not of members, but of mission partners.

"What needs to die in your church?" he asked the assembly in closing. "God's way of dealing with death is an empty tomb."

"I believe in you," he said. "Something is happening here." He invited those present to "grasp the perfect love of Jesus."

Consideration of the 2014 Budget

The Reverend Christopher Weidner, Chair, Finance Committee, thanked the assembly for "being faithful in God's Word and work, blessing your community beyond dollars and cents, and extending your ministry as partners with dollars and sense."

"We celebrate significant accomplishments," Pastor Weidner said as he began his presentation of the 2014 budget:

- Completed 2012 with a reduced deficit,
- Implemented new accounting software,
- Strengthened *Fund for Mission* management with a new oversight team, and

- Renewed efforts to interpret mission through a new stewardship resource team.

He identified the ongoing challenges and new realities that the synod faces:

- Congregational partnership support continues to decline: 4% annually long-term and 6% in 2012,
- Reduced ELCA support to the synod,
- Increased cost-sharing for missions,
- Property expense: \$170,000 in 2012, and
- No recent increase in staff salaries, which is unsustainable long-term.

Noting that “we owe you honesty,” Pastor Weidner acknowledged that “all of us are challenged to do more with less.”

Pastor Weidner noted the ways that the synod has responded to these ongoing challenges and new realities:

- Continued restrained spending in 2012,
- Reduced ELCA support 0.5% in 2013, and
- Proposing ELCA support at 50% in 2014.

As such, he continued, the Finance Committee is proposing a reasonable and responsible 2014 budget which:

- Maintains congregational partnership support at the 2013 level: \$2,100,000,
- Commits ELCA Partnership Support at a 50% level: \$1,050,000, and
- Makes long overdue staff salary increases.

The Finance Committee believes that the proposed 2014 budget maintains fiscal priorities, sustains operations, and provides core support for mission. The committee projects a balanced budget for 2014, committing the anticipated surplus to the *Fund for Mission*.

Pastor Weidner offered the following 2014 budget summary:

- Revenue: Partnership Support, \$2,100,000; Other Sources, \$1,412,570
- Total Budgeted Revenue: \$3,512,570
- Budgeted Expenses: \$3,484,060
- Projected Surplus (after \$25,000 transfer to *Fund for Mission*): \$3,510

He concluded, “We ask for your prayer and your commitment to Partnership Support,” noting that:

- Partnership Support has been reduced by \$500,000 over five years,
- Giving today to Partnership Support is at the 1980 level; and
- Any further cuts reduce effectiveness.

“We are committed to being a robust changing church, not a diminished one,” he said. “Each congregation and every generous gift is precious and essential to the body of Christ in this place! Each congregation has a role and a voice.”

Pastor Weidner presented the following resolution:

S. A. 13.05.14 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the 2014 budget as presented.

The Reverend Ellen Meissgeier noted that the congregations with a low percentage of support are the same congregations whose pastors do not participate in conference events. She encouraged congregations to ask the non-participating pastors why.

Mr. Everett Wick, St. Andrew, Perkasio, commended the Finance Committee for presenting a balanced budget. He asked if the \$170,000 designated for the property expenses of closed churches was included as a current expense in the 2014 proposed budget.

Ms. Janet Neff replied that it was and that it was considered a deferred asset.

The Reverend Timothy Johansen reminded the assembly that low percentage giving is a spiritual issue.

The Reverend Andrena Ingram noted a discrepancy in the recording what her congregation gives.

Pastor Karl Richard challenged those, to whom much has been given, to offset the giving of those who cannot give as much, adding that one cannot expect everyone to give the same or to be able to increase their giving.

Mr. Robert Hensil, Holy Spirit, Secane, reminded the assembly that the Congregational Stewardship Resource Team is available to assist congregations with stewardship campaigns and to work with stewardship committees. He thanked those who are tithing or who have moved beyond the tithe. He encouraged others to step out in faith and move toward tithing. He asked the assembly “to model for your congregations what it means to be a good steward.”

The assembly approved the resolution.

Prayer

Pastor Serena Sellers led the assembly in stretching prayer.

The assembly recessed for lunch.

Saturday Afternoon, May 4, 2013

Prayer

The Reverend Cornelius Eaddy offered prayer.

Recognition of Anniversary Celebrants

Bishop Burkat invited the Reverend Richard Hess to address the assembly on the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Pastor Hess thanked the assembly for recognizing the 50th anniversary of his ordination. “What was my fifty-year journey like? It has not been rip-roaring spectacular,” he admitted. “It has been like a blue-chip stock, fairly stable, more ups than downs, trending upward over time.” He described himself as “a common man with common thoughts, leading a common life,” who loved God and others with all his heart and soul. “That has been enough,” he said.

Bishop Burkat then invited Sister Katherine Homburg to address the assembly on the 50th anniversary of her consecration.

Sister Katherine noted the changes that the church has experienced over the past fifty years, among them the ordination of women and the presence of women bishops, and described those changes as “wonderful.” Speaking of her invaluable experience as a parish worker in urban areas, she challenged the assembly to reach out to people of many cultures and many languages. She thanked the assembly for recognizing the 50th anniversary of her consecration.

Since Pastor Howard Weidemoyer was present on the assembly floor, Bishop Burkat recognized him on the 60th anniversary of his ordination.

Third Report of the Committee on General Elections and Balloting

Pastor Eisenhart reported the results of the first ballot for Ticket 5.

TICKET 5, Synod Council – Lay Woman at Large (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)
362 total ballots, 361 valid ballots, 181 votes needed to elect
Jane Roper, 162; Diane Casey, 99; Dorothy Wilson, 97

The assembly then cast votes for the second ballot of Ticket 5.

Introduction of Candidates for Ordination

The Reverend Nancy Brown, Director of Candidacy, and Mr. Fred Reniger, Chair, Candidacy Committee, introduced the candidates approved for the ELCA roster: Ms. Ruth Bullwinkle, Mr. Alex Martini, Ms. Allison Wilcox, Mr. Timothy Ness, Ms. Alina Gayeuski, and Ms. Leila Ortiz.

Report of Synod Council

Bishop Burkat noted that this was Ms. Patricia Robinson’s last report as Vice President. She thanked Ms. Robinson for her “wisdom, support, and counsel,” remarking that she navigated the Synod Council through several very challenging years. She described Ms. Robinson as “a woman of strong faith, gracious compassion, a commitment to fairness, and a contagious love for Jesus.”

Vice President Robinson thanked Bishop Burkat for her “partnership and friendship.” She described herself as “a humble servant trying to do God’s will,” and added, “It’s been an incredible journey.”

Vice President Robinson expressed thanks to the members of the Synod Council, noting that they have grappled with a number of challenging issues this past year. She told the assembly that the Synod Council has continued the practice of “going on the road” this year by holding their meetings at various locations throughout the synod. She thanked God’s Love, Newtown; the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; St. Matthew, Woodlyn; St. Andrew, Audubon; and Calvary, West Chester, for their hospitality.

She reminded the assembly that the Minutes contain the actions of the Synod Council over the past year. She acknowledged that the resolution, approved by the 2012 Synod Assembly (**S. A. 12.05.15**) and directing the Synod Council to appoint a task group to develop Sabbatical Guidelines for this synod’s rostered leaders, did not get the attention that it deserved and would be referred to the Synod Council for action this year.

In a moment of personal privilege, Vice President Robinson thanked the assembly and the synod for “the opportunity to represent you over the past 12 years.” She continued, “I’ve worked with two bishops and many other people, visited congregations, and attended events. It’s been a wonderful experience, knowing and living in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod,” which she described as “the greatest synod in the ELCA.” She admitted that she could not have done her job as Vice President “without the support of a lot of you and my mother looking down on me.”

“I leave you with hope for the future,” she said. “You have answered the call. Aim for the sky.” She extended best wishes to newly elected Vice President Tracey Beasley.

Bishop Burkat presented Vice President Robinson with a plaque containing adjectives, submitted by synod staff and Synod Council members and describing Ms. Robinson’s many wonderful personal traits. Secretary Miller presented a vase of flowers to Vice President Robinson.

Third Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Resolution of Thanks

Ms. Meuser presented the following resolution, which the assembly approved by acclamation:

S. A. 13.05.15 Whereas it is right at all times and in all places to give thanks for God’s grace, mercy, and the extraordinary gifts of the Holy Spirit which bless and release the people of God to serve Christ and His Church, and

Whereas the 2013 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly has earnestly engaged in prayerful discussions, deliberations and decisions, and has experienced the blessings of many gifted leaders, workers and volunteers, and

Whereas God continues to call the church to be grateful for the energy, skill, generosity, and commitment of all who have labored, both visibly and behind-the-scenes, to prosper the work of this year's assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT we offer our appreciation and thankful applause to all those who prepared for, planned, and arranged the assembly:

To the Floor Page Coordinator and all Assembly floor pages, volunteers from Mediator, Philadelphia, registration assistants, forum leaders, our Parliamentarian, the Synod Communications team, the staff from CCI Communications, our food service providers, prayer partners, sign language interpreters, and Franconia Mennonite Church whose gracious hospitality is a true blessing;

To the Worship Team, 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 presenters, the Reverend Jay Gamelin and Mr. Justin Rimbo, for inspiring us and opening our eyes to the post-modernist touchstones;

To the ELCA representative, the Reverend Neil Harrison, for reminding us that we are always being made new as we are the ELCA together;

To Bishop Claire S. Burkat for challenging us to experience the clarity to God-sight to see, know, show, and experience Jesus in new ways; and

To the Officers of the Synod and the Synod Council, synod Administrative Staff, synod Program Staff, synod Pastoral Staff, and synod part-time Deployed Staff, and Conference Deans.

For all the gifts of God that we experienced in these holy days together, we express our gratitude.

Final Report of the Committee on Elections

Pastor Eisenhart reported the results of the second ballot for Ticket 5.

TICKET 5, Synod Council – Lay Woman at Large (One to be elected for a term ending 2016)
233 total ballots, 233 valid ballots, 117 votes needed to elect
Jane Roper, 120; Diane Casey, 113
Bishop Burkat declared Sister Jane Roper elected.

Pastor Eisenhart thanked the members of the Committee on Elections.

Final Report of the Registrar

Ms. Outterbridge presented the final report of the Registrar:

Total voting membership, 500; total number of pastors under call, 176; total number of retired pastors voting, 27; total number of associates in ministry, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers under call, 14; total number of retired associates in ministry and deaconesses voting, 3; total number of lay voting members certified, including council members, youth, and young adults, 280; total number of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" in the previous total, 82; percent of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" of total voting membership, 16.4%; number of female lay voting members, 127; number of male lay voting members, 110; number of youth/young adults members, 28.

Total registered (actually in attendance) voting membership, 441; number of pastors under call registered, 154; number of retired voting pastors registered, 20; number of associates in ministry and deaconesses under call registered, 13; number of retired associates in ministry and deaconesses registered, 2; number of lay voting members registered, including council members, youth, and young adults, 252; total number of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" in previous total, 82; percent of "persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English" of total voting membership, 18.6%; total number of visitors and guests registered, 88.

Bishop Burkat reported that the 27th annual Assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod was scheduled for May 2-3, 2014.

Recognition, Installation, and Blessing

Bishop Burkat recognized the Synod Council members whose terms were ending at this assembly and installed Ms. Tracey Beasley as Vice President and the Synod Council members elected at this assembly. She then led the order for the Blessing and Sending of this synod's voting members to the 2013 Churchwide Assembly.

Order for the Closing of the Assembly

Bishop Burkat led the Order for the Closing of the Assembly. The twenty-sixth annual Assembly of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

The Reverend Raymond A. Miller
Secretary
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

MINUTES
Of the 126th MEETING
Of the SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD COUNCIL
Of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
June 6, 2013
Advent Lutheran Church, Richboro, PA

The Reverend Paul Sorcek, Pastor, Advent, Richboro, welcomed Synod Council members, and the Reverend Jackson Haas, Dean, Lower Bucks Conference, led devotions.

Vice President Tracey Beasley called to order the One Hundred Twenty-sixth Meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council at 4:30 p.m. At the Vice President's request, Synod Council members introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Synod Council approved the minutes of the 125th meeting of the Synod Council and the minutes of the 26th annual Synod Assembly as presented.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Beasley presented the agenda for the 126th meeting.

BISHOP'S REPORT

Welcome to Synod Council

The Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, welcomed Ms. Tracey Beasley to her first Synod Council meeting as Vice President. She thanked Synod Council member, Ms. Doreen Kinzler, for her willingness to serve as a nominee for Vice President. She also welcomed newly elected and re-elected Synod Council members.

2013 Synod Assembly

Bishop Burkat noted some of the key moments of the 2013 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly, which used as its theme, *Show Me: We Want to See Jesus*:

- The two presentations by keynote speaker, the Reverend Jay Gamelin, Pilgrim, Lexington, SC;
- The Music and Worship Seminar led by Pastor Gamelin and Mr. Justin Rimbo, Music Director, Jacob's Well, Minneapolis, MN;
- The address by the Churchwide Representative, the Reverend Neil Harrison, Program Director for Congregational Renewal, Congregation and Synodical Mission Unit, ELCA;
- The recognition of Ms. Patricia Robinson, who retired after serving "twelve exciting years" as this synod's Vice President;
- The comprehensive financial reports provided by this synod's Treasurer, Ms. Janet Neff;

- The presentation of the 2014 budget by the Reverend Christopher Weidner, Chair of the Finance Committee;
- The update given by this synod's youth-led Malaria Campaign Team, which reported that more than \$120,000 has been contributed to the campaign, well above the goal of \$100,000;
- The announcement of resources to "help congregations encourage a culture of mission," being developed by the newly formed Mission Planning Team;
- The live greetings brought by means of skype from the missionaries, Ms. Susan MacPherson and Mr. Tom MacPherson, at the Irente Children's Home in the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania;
- The reminder by the Reformation 500 Team that 2017 is the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses; and
- Saturday morning's worship experience of centering prayer and singing led by Mr. Waverly Alston, Music Director of the Welcome Church, Philadelphia.

Bishop Burkat thanked the synod's officers, staff, parliamentarian, committee chairs, and the worship team for their leadership at the assembly.

She also thanked those who attended the appreciation dinner for former Vice President, Ms. Patricia Robinson, on May 10, 2013.

50th Jubilee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

Bishop Burkat reported that she and Ms. Joanne Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Mission and Events, would be traveling to Tanzania June 11-25, 2013, as ELCA representatives at the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Under **+S8.58**, she indicated her wish to appoint, with the consent of the Synod Council, the Reverend Patricia Davenport, this synod's Director for Evangelical Mission, to serve as "acting bishop" during her absence.

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.06.01 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council consents to the appointment by Bishop Claire Burkat of the Reverend Patricia Davenport to serve as Acting Bishop of this synod from June 11 to 25, 2013.

New Jersey Synod Assembly

Bishop Burkat reported that she would be attending the New Jersey Synod Assembly June 6-8, 2013, in East Brunswick, NJ, as that synod says goodbye to its bishop, the Reverend Roy Riley, who is retiring after 22 years. She added that the Reverend Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has appointed her to mentor the new bishop to be elected at that assembly.

Lutheran Charities

Bishop Burkat reported that Ms. Carol Hammarberg, Coordinator of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's Lutheran Charities Appeal, has retired, adding that she would be joining other Social Ministry Organization representatives in examining how and in what form Lutheran Charities should organize for the future. She hoped to have a recommendation for the September 2013 meeting of the Synod Council.

2013 Churchwide Assembly

Bishop Burkat reported that, on May 19, 2013, she met with this synod's voting members of the Churchwide Assembly, August 12-17, 2013, and reviewed the agenda. Mr. Bert Glenn and Ms. Linda Manson reviewed the basic components of the proposed social statement, *The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries*.

Portico Benefits

Bishop Burkat noted that Portico Benefit Services' Regional Representative, Ms. Barbara Demski, reported at the 2013 Synod Assembly that her organization is committed to leading the ELCA through the changes mandated by the Affordable Care Act and that further details would be available in August 2013. Among the documents made available to Synod Council members for this meeting was the *ELCA Philosophy of Benefits* statement.

Battalion Chief Michael Goodwin

Bishop Burkat reported that, on April 6, 2013, the Reverend Marjorie Neale, Pastor, St. Michael, Philadelphia (Kensington), led the funeral service for Mr. Michael Goodwin, St. Michael's president and a Philadelphia firefighter who died fighting a blaze in South Philadelphia. Bishop Burkat also reported that, on May 17, 2013, she served as Master of Ceremonies and preached at the Memorial Service for Mr. Goodwin, sponsored by the Office of the Mayor, the City of Philadelphia, and the Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia, and crafted by the Reverend William Vanderslice, Pastor, St. Paul, Red Hill, and a childhood friend of Mr. Goodwin.

Approval of a New Mission Field

Bishop Burkat reported that Ms. Leila Ortiz declined the call to serve as the Mission Developer of Learning/Knowing Christ Latino/a Ministry, located at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Philadelphia (Olney), approved by the Synod Council (**S. C. 13.04.02**).

Extension of Call Requests

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolutions, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.06.02 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council requests that the Reverend David Oppold be granted a two-year extension of *On Leave from Call for Graduate Study* status from the ELCA Conference of Bishops, effective February 1, 2013.

S. C. 13.06.03 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council requests that the Reverend Margaret Ainslie be granted a two-year extension of *On Leave from Call for Graduate Study* status from the ELCA Conference of Bishops, effective June 1, 2013.

Recommendation for a Term Call

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.06.04 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves a three-year term to Sister Margaret Thorne as Bereavement Coordinator at Gentiva Hospice, Blue Bell, PA, beginning May 29, 2013 to May 28, 2016.

Action on the Roster

Retirement

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.06.05 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *retirement* status to the Reverend David B. Anderson, effective July 1, 2013.

On Leave from Call Requests

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.06.06 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *on leave from call* status to Sister Mary Julia McKenzie, 1st year, effective June 30, 2013; the Reverend William McGowan, 1st year, effective July 1, 2013; and Ms. Nancy Selinger, Diaconal Minister, 1st year, effective June 9, 2013.

To avoid the appearance of any possible conflict of interest, Sister Mary Julia McKenzie abstained.

Removal from the Roster

Bishop Burkat reported that the Reverend Lindsay Allen Rhodenbaugh voluntarily resigned from the roster of ordained ministers.

Call to Interim Ministry

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.06.07 RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of Bishop Claire Burkat, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council calls the Reverend Donna M. Wright to interim ministry at St. John Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, PA, starting June 17, 2013 and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Wright resigns this call, whichever comes first.

Memorial Service for Dr. Sheneman

Bishop Burkat reported that she planned to attend the Memorial Service for the Reverend Dr. Lloyd Sheneman on June 29, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Beasley thanked the Executive Committee for the "sweet and kind" welcome that she received at the May 2013 meeting. She added that she is "humbled and privileged to serve the synod. As you know," she continued, "I love the church."

Describing herself as "the new sheriff in town," she noted that the Executive Committee had placed time limits on the agenda, reduced the number of regular Synod Council meetings this year from five to four, and set the time for dinner later in the meeting. She requested that Synod Council members send her an email at least one week before each Synod Council meeting to indicate if they do not plan to stay for dinner.

She indicated that the orientation for new members would take place at dinner.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary, reported that, by the closing date on May 1, 2013, the Synod Council approved by an email vote a one-year extension for Ms. Susan MacPherson and Mr. Thomas MacPherson to serve as volunteer missionaries in Tanzania: 25 total votes, 24 yes, 1 abstained. He requested that the Synod Council affirm that vote by approving the following resolution:

S. C. 13.06.08 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council affirms the results of the email vote that closed on May 1, 2013, approving a one-year extension (November 2013-November 2014) for Susan and Tom MacPherson to serve as volunteer missionaries at the Irete Children's Home in the North Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. This extension is to be a continuation of the Shared Personnel Placement by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and the ELCA Global Mission Unit.

The Synod Council approved the resolution.

Secretary Miller also reported that the Synod Council currently has two open positions: Lower Bucks Conference Representative, male (2014), and Young Adult, male (2016). He added that Mr. George Schultz had resigned.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Janet Neff, Treasurer, reviewed three documents made available to Synod Council members: the Statement of Financial Position, the Income and Expense Statement, and the 2013 Congregational Giving Report. She noted that the pre-paid rent line in the Statement of Financial Position represents the balance of the funds that the synod paid the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia for building renovations that would include space for a synod office and that it, or some portion of it, would be returned if the synod office re-locates off the seminary campus before the lease expires. She also noted that the 2013 Congregational Giving Report includes a new column entitled "Partnership Support as a Percentage of Regular Giving."

Ms. Susan Pursch suggested that lay Synod Council members be utilized to contact congregations which have contributed nothing to partnership support.

Expressing support for the idea of lay volunteers visiting congregations, Bishop Burkat noted three ways in which the synod may utilize lay visitors: (1) make informal contacts with pastors and congregational leaders, (2) make contacts in conjunction with the Stewardship Team, and (3) make visits as part of a serious fund-raising effort.

Pastor Weidner offered the observation that the synod's fiscal year may not coincide with the fiscal year of congregations, thus creating a possible misrepresentation of congregational giving.

Finance Committee

Pastor Weidner listed the following items for future attention: investment policy and procedures, spending policy, rent for the synod office at the seminary and office space alternatives, cost of maintaining empty church buildings versus selling them at a lower price, posting financial documents for public review on the synod's website, and future Finance Committee Structure.

Audit Committee

Mr. Rodman Rothermel, Chair of the Audit Committee, noted that "the results of the audit," known as *Financial Statements and Report of Independent Certified Public Accounts*, dated January 31, 2013, "are not good." He also drew Synod Council members' attention to two letters provided by Tait/Weller, Certified Public Accountants: (1) a Synod Management Letter, addressed to the Audit Committee and dated April 29, 2013, and (2) a Professional Standards Letter, addressed to the Synod Council and dated April 17, 2013.

He explained the nature of an audit, indicating that an outside firm reviews an organization's finances and makes a report, but that the organization, in this case, the Synod Council, is ultimately responsible for the financial numbers and procedures.

He stated that, because of the havoc created by the new financial software, the synod was not ready for the audit this year.

He then expressed a concern that the synod's current assets are not sufficient to cover its current liabilities, based on the numbers provided in the Unrestricted Funds column on Page C-5 of the audit, dated January 31, 2013,

Vice President Beasley attempted to summarize Mr. Rothermel's concern by saying that "what you are asking is: What is the plan for dealing with the deficit?"

Ms. Neff challenged the notion that the funds in the *Fund for Mission* should be considered "restricted," since that fund is the only place for the synod to charge its deficits. She reiterated the concern that congregations be asked "to give something to be a part of this church."

Bishop Burkat said that she looked forward to bringing recommendations to the Synod Council at its September 2013 meeting, regarding these financial issues.

Mr. Rothermel recommended that the synod identify staff members to be trained in the financial software, so that there are no more errors.

Vice President Beasley said that there are already plans in place for this training.

The Synod Council recessed for a short break.

SYNOD COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Vice President Beasley distributed a form on which she requested Synod Council members to indicate three talents, gifts, or abilities and then their preferences for Synod Council committee assignments. She asked the committee chairs to describe the work of their committees.

Election of Executive Committee Members

Vice President Beasley asked for nominations for the clergy, lay female, and lay male positions on the Synod Council's Executive Committee.

Nominated for the clergy position were Pastors Sandra Brown and Karl Richard. Synod Council members cast 15 votes for Pastor Karl Richard and 8 votes for Pastor Sandra Brown. Vice President Beasley declared Pastor Karl Richard elected.

Nominated for the lay female position was Ms. Margie Pendarvis-Wright. There were no additional nominations. Vice President Beasley declared Ms. Pendarvis-Wright elected.

Nominated for the lay male position was Mr. Robert Hensil. There were no additional nominations. Vice President Beasley declared Mr. Hensil elected.

OLD BUSINESS

Sister Mary Julia McKenzie asked about the development of a sabbatical policy for roster leaders in response to **S. A. 12.05.15**. Vice President Beasley reported that the Executive Committee is considering options.

NEW BUSINESS

Bishop Burkat commented on the election of the Reverend Craig Satterlee, who is legally blind, as bishop of the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and the Reverend R. Guy Erwin, who is a partnered gay man and a Native American, as bishop of the Southwest California Synod, and noted that these elections challenge us to consider how the work of the bishop may be done differently in the future.

Secretary Miller presented a request from the Tanzania Companionship Team to combine the various Tanzania-related fund-raising efforts and designate one month in 2014 as *Tanzania Month*. Pastor Weidner moved to refer to the matter to the Executive Committee. The Synod Council approved.

The Synod Council adjourned at 6:35 p.m. Pastor Karl Richard offered prayer.

The 127th meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council is Thursday, September 19, 2013, 4:00 p.m., at a location to be determined.

The Reverend Raymond A. Miller
Secretary
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

MINUTES
Of the 127th MEETING
Of the SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD COUNCIL
Of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
September 19, 2013
Tabernacle Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA

The Reverend Carlton Rodgers, Pastor, Tabernacle, Philadelphia, and Dean, Central Philadelphia Conference, welcomed Synod Council members and led devotions.

Vice President Tracey Beasley called to order the One Hundred Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council at 4:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Synod Council approved the minutes of the 126th meeting of the Synod Council as corrected.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Beasley presented the agenda for the 127th meeting.

BISHOP'S REPORT

50th Jubilee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania

The Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and Ms. Joanne Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Mission and Events, visited the North Eastern Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, June 11-25, 2013. She described the trip as “wonderful and challenging,” adding that it included meetings with other ELCA synod representatives and ELCA staff in Tanzania. One of the highlights of the trip was the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania.

Reformation 500 Team

Bishop Burkat reported that the Reformation 500 Team is making plans to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. The team has started a Facebook group, posted resources on the synod's website, and is in the process of reviewing ideas for annual emphases over the next four years, including trips to Lutheran Reformation sites in Germany.

Lutheran Charities

Bishop Burkat reported that she and Vice President Beasley, along with eight key leaders from area Lutheran social ministry organizations, attended the first meeting of the Lutheran Charities Future Committee in July of this year. Those at the meeting participated in “a fruitful discussion” and formed a continuing task group. Bishop Burkat said that she hopes to have a recommendation on the future of the Lutheran Charities Appeal for the December 2013 Synod Council meeting.

2013 Churchwide Assembly

Describing the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, which met August 12-17 in Pittsburgh, PA, as “inspiring, challenging, and exhausting,” Bishop Burkat shared her observations. Gathering under the theme *Always Being Made New*, she noted, “That theme resonated and came to life throughout the week in ways that none of us could have anticipated. The most startling and exciting new thing that happened at the assembly was the election of a new Presiding Bishop.” She listed and offered brief comments on the assembly's major actions:

- The election of the Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod, as the new Presiding Bishop;
- The election of the Reverend William Chris Boerger, former Bishop, Northwest Washington Synod, as the new Secretary;
- Discussions related to changes in the health benefits plan;
- Approval of five-year, \$198 million fundraising campaign; and
- Approval of the social statement, “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries.”

“I was blessed to serve with a diverse and dedicated group of clergy and lay people from our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod,” Bishop Burkat concluded. “I was especially impressed with the energy and enthusiasm of our young adult members.”

Synod’s Legal Counsel

Bishop Burkat approved the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.01 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves the appointment of Mr. John I. Gordon to serve as the Legal Counsel for the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod until resignation or a successor is appointed.

Bishop’s Convocation

Bishop Burkat reported that the theme for the Bishop’s Convocation, scheduled to take place November 13-15, 2013, in Bethlehem, PA, is *Provocative Insight: The Art and Awe of Sharing the Gospel*. The speakers are the Reverend Dr. Alyce McKenzie and the Reverend Jay Gamelin.

LTSP Board of Trustees

Noting that she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Bishop Burkat reported that she has been asked to serve on the search committee for a new seminary president.

Changes in the Business Office

“Our finance department has experienced many challenges and changes over the past two years,” Bishop Burkat reported. “This summer it became clear that we needed to make changes once again to update this department in order to be current with Standard Accounting Practices and technology. It is necessary for the finance department to be led by someone with training and experience in accounting and finance in order to keep the administration of the business office running smoothly and efficiently.

“To that end,” she continued, “I decided to eliminate the position of Assistant to the Bishop for Finance and Development, which resulted in Ms. Carol Ann Murray’s termination of employment. Carol Ann was an enthusiastic supporter of our synod mission, a compassionate

and caring colleague, and a team player during her time here. Her last day in the office was August 7, 2013.

“Ms. Judy Koenig, our synod bookkeeper, who served the synod in the finance office for 31 years, submitted her resignation, effective August 12, 2013. Judy was conscientious, dependable, caring and considerate to colleagues and stakeholders, and a faithful steward of the synod’s resources.

“[The synod’s Treasurer, Ms.] Janet Neff is working closely with our auditors to identify appropriate staffing requirements for the department. Janet and [the Director of Operations and Executive Assistant to the Bishop, Ms.] Yvonne Curtis have been working together on the day-to-day tasks, to keep the finance department moving forward, and to get a clear picture of the type of staffing assistance needed for the immediate future. [Mr.] Martin Schwab, LTSP Business Manager, has served as a consultant for our new financial operating system since February 2013, and now is providing support by preparing financial reports and other bookkeeping tasks as requested.”

“God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday

“We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and gets to work,” reported Bishop Burkat. “Across our synod [on the ELCA’s designated National Day of Service, Sunday, September 8, 2013], ELCA Lutherans rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Volunteers cleaned up parks, streets, and creeks, helped schools get ready for fall, ran programs for kids, did painting and construction for shelters and clinics, [and] packed thousands of meals.” She added that Mr. Robert Fisher, Assistant to the Bishop for Mission Interpretation and Communications, has been collecting stories from congregations.

Action on the Roster

Call to Specialized Ministry

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.02 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves the call to the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phelps Ollikainen as the Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services, beginning October 1, 2013.

Calls to Interim Ministry

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolutions, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.03 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council calls the Rev. Paul Richard Beck to interim ministry at Grace Lutheran Church in Pottstown, PA, beginning August 19, 2013, and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Beck resigns this call, whichever comes first.

S. C. 13.09.04 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council calls the Rev. Bruce John Thorsen to interim ministry at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lansdowne, PA, beginning September 11, 2013, and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Thorsen resigns this call, whichever comes first.

On Leave from Call Requests

Bishop Burkat presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.05 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *on leave from call* status to the Reverends Daryl Nelson, 2nd year, effective July 3, 2013; Jack A. Saarela, 1st year, effective July 16, 2013; and Paul J. Xander, 1st year, effective July 22, 2013.

Living Hope Campaign

Bishop Burkat reviewed the case statement for the synod's proposed *Living Hope* campaign and noted the following: "We are launching the Living Hope Campaign to secure the proper resources so we, the people that are the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, can support our congregations and our leaders as we go through this epic transformation together. By 2017 we will raise \$5 million to equip leaders and congregations and launch new expressions of the church now and into the future.

"This campaign focuses on four priorities that are essential to the health and vitality of the Church in this changing world:

- Equipping our people,
- Accompanying our communities of faith,
- Providing sustainable funding for future mission, and
- Celebrating our interdependence as the ELCA.

These four components provide a solid base that will ensure our Synod continues to innovate and lead mission."

The funds raised would be allocated in the following way: Equipping God's People, \$500,000; Accompanying Communities of Faith, \$500,000; Funding for Future Mission, \$3.5 million; and Celebrating Our Interdependence as the ELCA, 10% of the gifts to the Living Hope campaign.

She indicated that she planned to appoint a development team and that the campaign would make use of the services of a fundraising firm.

After discussion, Mr. Rodman Rothermel presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.06 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council affirms the “Living Hope Campaign: Case Statement, Draft 4” as presented and authorizes the Bishop of this synod and the appointed Development Team to select a fundraising firm and report to the Synod Council on its progress at the Synod Council meeting on December 12, 2013.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VICE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Vice President Beasley reported that Mr. Fred Brown has resigned his position as a Synod Council lay member at large.

She also reported that Mr. Dan Scharnhorst, Executive Director of Bear Creek Camp, would make a presentation to the Synod Council at its meeting on December 12, 2013.

Vice President Beasley presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.07 RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee and the Tanzania Companionship Team, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council designates March as *Tanzania Month* in 2014 and continuing for the next three years at which time it shall be subject to review.

SECRETARY’S REPORT

Portico Benefits

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary, outlined the changes to the ELCA Health Benefits Plan, administered by Portico Benefit Services and approved by the ELCA Church Council at its meeting on August 11, 2013. The changes were developed by Portico in response to the legal requirements of the Affordable Care Act and include provision for offering to plan members four health plan benefit options: Platinum+, Gold+, Silver+, and Bronze+. He added that the ELCA Church Council at its meeting on August 11, 2013, took action to endorse the Gold+ option as the recommended option.

He presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council, after discussion, approved:

S. C. 13.09.08 Whereas, at its meeting on August 11, 2013, the ELCA Church Council endorsed the Gold+ option among the four health plan options and pricing alternatives, offered by Portico Benefit Services in response to the health care reform provisions of the Affordable Care Act;

Whereas the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America recognizes that a commitment to comprehensive health care benefits is an investment in “the ministry we share;” and

Whereas the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod seeks to be an advocate for “plan members” in this synod as they seek to work with “sponsoring employers” in making equitable choices in regard to the health benefit options;

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council joins the ELCA Church Council in “the endorsement of the Gold+ option as the benchmark and recommended health plan benefit option because it approximates the level of medical and dental benefits and expense allocation provided by the current ELCA Medical and Dental Benefits Plan;”

AND ALSO RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council directs the Office of the Bishop to communicate its endorsement of the Gold+ option to rostered leaders, congregations, and other related organizations, institutions, and agencies as soon as possible.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer’s Report

Ms. Neff reviewed the documents made available to Synod Council members: Statement of Financial Position, Income and Expense Statement, and Congregational Giving Statement, all as of July 31, 2013. She noted that, while partnership support from congregations was above what was expected as of July 31, 2013, cash flow is a concern.

She reported that an Occupancy Committee has been formed to consider options for the future location of the synod office.

Finance Committee

The Reverend Christopher Weidner, Chair, reported that the committee has met by conference call and is in the process of regrouping.

NEW BUSINESS

LTSP Board of Trustees Election

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.09.09 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council elects the Reverend Harry McDowell and Ms. Patricia Robinson as members of the Board of Trustees of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia for terms ending 2016.

LEARNING MOMENT

As requested by those participating in the orientation session at the last Synod Council meeting, Secretary Miller presented a brief learning moment, explaining the three sections of the ELCA, synodical, and congregational constitutions (constitutional provisions, bylaws, and continuing

resolutions) and the codification of these constitutions and Synod Assembly and Synod Council resolutions.

The Synod Council adjourned at 6:35 p.m. The Reverend Regina Goodrich offered prayer.

The 128th meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council is Thursday, December 12, 2013, 4:00 p.m., Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Ambler.

The Reverend Raymond A. Miller
Secretary
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

**MINUTES
Of the 128th MEETING
Of the SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD COUNCIL
Of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
December 12, 2013
Upper Dublin Lutheran Church, Ambler, PA**

Vice President Tracey Beasley called to order the One Hundred Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council at 4:00 p.m.

The Reverend Julie DeWerth, Dean, Lower Montgomery Conference, led devotions and the Reverend Keith Anderson, Pastor, Upper Dublin, Philadelphia, welcomed Synod Council members.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Synod Council approved the minutes of the 127th meeting of the Synod Council as presented.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Beasley presented the agenda for the 128th meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Change of Date for Synod Council Meeting in June 2014

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary, reported that the Executive Committee changed the date of a meeting of the Synod Council next year from June 26 to June 5, 2014.

Synod Office Requests Copies of Congregational Constitutions

Secretary Miller also reported that, on the recommendation of the synod's Legal Counsel, Mr. John Gordon, the Executive Committee is requesting that congregations send copies of their constitutions to the synod office. He added that this request is supported by *C6.03.e. of the *Model Constitution for Congregations*.

Affirmation of Previous Email Votes

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.12.01 RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council affirms its approval of the following resolutions by email vote:

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *on leave from call status* to the Reverend Mary Konopka, first year, effective August 1, 2013, by electronic vote, subject to review and affirmation at its next regular meeting.

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council acknowledges the action of St. Luke, Dublin, to close (also termed "disband," "dissolve," and "cease to exist"), effective, January 30, 2011; receives the property of St. Luke, Dublin, in accordance with the *Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, specifically 9.71.b., +S13.23., and *C7.01. ; and authorizes the Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, the Reverend Claire S. Burkat, or the Bishop's representative(s), to sell the property on behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod on a determined date.

Secretary Miller explained the rationale for affirming email votes by noting that, because there is no opportunity for discussion, email votes do not constitute legal meetings and resolutions may only be approved at legal meetings. As an alternative, he suggested that the Synod Council consider resolutions, which may require significant discussion and where a face-to-face meeting may be impractical, at a telephone conference meeting. A telephone conference meeting would be considered a special meeting and called under **S10.07.01** of the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA*.

Report of the Church Council

Secretary Miller reported on the actions of the Church Council at its meeting on November 8-10, 2013.

Action on the Roster

Call to Specialized Ministry

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.12.02 RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod approves a call to Sister Jane Roper as Executive-On-Duty/RN at Silver Springs Martin Luther School, Plymouth Meeting, beginning November 18, 2013.

To avoid the appearance of any possible conflict of interest, Sister Jane Roper abstained.

Calls to Interim Ministry

Secretary Miller presented the following resolutions, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.12.03 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council calls the Rev. Jack Saarela to interim ministry at St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Perkasio, beginning October 1, 2013, and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Saarela resigns this call, whichever comes first.

S. C. 13.12.04 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council calls the Rev. Shirley Guider to interim ministry at Christ's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Oreland, beginning November 17, 2013, and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Guider resigns this call, whichever comes first.

S. C. 13.12.05 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council calls the Rev. David E. Mueller to interim ministry at Centennial Lutheran Church, Kimberton, beginning January 1, 2014, and extending until a pastor is called by the congregation or until Pastor Mueller resigns this call, whichever comes first.

Ms. Susan Pursch raised a concern about the Synod Council taking action to approve a call after the call has officially begun.

On Leave from Call Requests

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.12.06 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *on leave from call* status to the Reverends Mary Konopka, 1st year for disability, effective August 10, 2013; Katherine Bender Braun, 1st year, effective October 21, 2013; Jeffrey Ziegler, 1st year, effective November 15, 2013; and John Carlson, 3rd year, effective March 1, 2014.

Retirement Requests

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.12.07 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants retirement status to the Reverends Soenke R. Schmidt-Lange, effective November 1, 2013; and Karen Weber, effective January 1, 2014.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Janet Huber Neff, Treasurer, reviewed the Memorandum from the Treasurer, dated December 11, 2013; the Statement of Financial Position, dated October 31, 2013; the Income and Expense Statement, dated October 31, 2013; and the Congregational Giving Report, dated October 31, 2013. She noted the following:

2013 Income Statement

- Partnership support was below budget by \$14,000 through October 31, 2013, and \$54,000 through November 30, 2013.
- The *It Takes All the Saints* Appeal raised approximately \$30,000.
- Income from Unrestricted Funds was above budget by \$677,937 due to the sale of St. Luke's of \$802,703.
- Expenses were below budget by \$177,999.
- Total unrestricted income was \$2,403,406; total unrestricted expenses were \$1,514,795, leaving the result of income exceeded expenses by \$888,611.
- Temporarily restricted results showed income over expenses by \$144,575. This helps fund our mission priorities.
- Mission results showed expenses over income by \$132,614.
- Permanently restricted results showed expenses over income by \$18,685. There will be transfers from the permanently restricted accounts to fund the expenses.
- Our final surplus is \$881,587.
- Our current liabilities include \$171,238 to the ELCA and \$91,650 to other organizations representing designated giving.

Synod Statement of Financial Position

- As of October 31, 2013, we have unrestricted assets of \$1,980,249, however only \$641,473 is in available cash.
- Our liabilities are \$369,230; however only \$140,133 is a current liability (owed in 1 year or less).
- Our temporarily and permanently restricted funds amount to \$1,325,493.

Synod Occupancy

- A committee was formed to discuss various alternatives and to assess our current location.
- A meeting was held with the seminary discussing concerns.
- The contract with the seminary has been extended to December 31, 2018. This reduces our annual amortization to \$55,701 from our previous annual amortization of \$88,236. This change is effective July 1, 2013.

Business Office

“I am working with Yvonne Curtis and an outside consultant in finalizing the job functions and responsibilities of the accountant/CPA that we plan to employ in the business office. We currently have a full time accountant working for us posting receipts, disbursements and journal entries as well as a part-time accountant preparing financial statements, reconciling bank accounts, and providing guidance.”

BISHOP’S REPORT

Installation of Bishop Eaton and Farewell to Bishop Hanson

The Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop, reported the following:

“On Saturday, October 5, [2013,] the Conference of Bishops, [the bishops’] spouses, and Church Council members, including our own secretary, Pastor Ray Miller, attended the installation of our new presiding bishop, the Reverend Elizabeth Eaton, at the Rockefeller Chapel on the campus of the University of Chicago. It was an inspiring and historic service, which many people across the ELCA viewed via live stream provided by the ELCA communications department. Bishop Jessica Crist gave an outstanding sermon and Bishop Mark Hanson and Vice President Carlos Pena installed Bishop Eaton.”

She added that the Conference of Bishops and the Church Council have invited those interested to contribute to the ELCA’s *Fund for Leaders* in honor of Presiding Bishop Hanson. To the end, she presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 13.12.08 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council celebrates and appreciates the ministry of our former Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson by asking congregations and individuals, if they choose, to contribute to a gift to the ELCA Campaign designated for the Fund for Leaders in his honor;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the accumulation of these monies be collected through the synod business office and announced at the 2014 Synod Assembly where former Bishop Hanson will be the keynote speaker.

Lutheran Charities Future

Bishop Burkat reported that, on December 9, 2013, she attended a meeting which considered the future plan and expansion of the Lutheran Charities Appeal. She will share more specific information at the Synod Council meeting on March 20, 2014.

Bishop's Convocation: *The Art and Awe of Sharing the Gospel*

Bishop Burkat reported that, from November 13 to 15, 2013, the synod's rostered leaders and staff gathered in Bethlehem, PA, for the Bishop's Convocation under the theme *Provocative Insight: The Art and Awe of Sharing the Gospel*.

JCRC Trip to Israel

Bishop Burkat reported that, in February 2014, she would be traveling to Israel as part of an interfaith group sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council. Joining her from this synod are the Reverends Patricia Davenport and Ellen Meissgeier and Dr. Jon Pahl. Available to handle any bishop's responsibilities during her absence are Bishop Tracie Bartholomew, New Jersey Synod, and Bishop Samuel Zeiser, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Gloria Dei, Huntingdon Valley

Bishop Burkat reported that Gloria Dei, Huntingdon Valley, has called as pastor the Reverend Dr. Sharon Graff, a rostered leader of the United Church of Christ. She noted that, according to her church body's documents, Pastor Graff's call is a four-way call from the United Church of Christ, involving the pastor, the congregation, the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference, UCC, and the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA. Bishop Burkat said that, in accordance with those documents, she would receive, not install, Pastor Graff at Gloria Dei on January 26, 2014.

Resolutions to Sell Buildings

At Bishop Burkat's request, Secretary Miller presented the following resolutions, which the Synod Council approved:

St. James, Chalfont

S. C. 13.12.09 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council acknowledges with sadness the action of St. James Lutheran Church, Chalfont, to close, effective February 22, 2009, on which date the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod received the property of St. James, Chalfont, in accordance with the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, specifically 9.71.b., +S13.23., and *C7.01.; and, on this date, December 12, 2013, authorizes the Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, or the Bishop's representative(s), to sell the property on behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls)

S. C. 13.12.10 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council acknowledges that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod received the property of Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls), in accordance with the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, specifically 9.71.b., +S13.23., and *C7.01., when it placed the congregation under synodical administration and authorized the Bishop of this synod to appoint trustees for the congregation (S. C. 07.06.01) and, with sadness, closed the congregation, upon the recommendation of the trustees and by action of the Synod Council, on June 10, 2010 (S. C. 10.06.08).

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, on this date, December 12, 2013, authorizes the Bishop of this synod, or the Bishop's representative(s), to sell the property of Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls), on behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

This resolution is based on the following previous actions of the Synod Council:

S. C. 07.06.01 RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council authorizes the Office of the Bishop to take Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls), under "involuntary synodical administration" in accordance with constitutional provision S13.24. The Office of the Bishop shall appoint a board of trustees to administer the congregation under the above provision. The trustees shall report to the Synod Council by the meeting on November 29, 2007.

S. C. 09.04.02 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council re-affirms its decision [S. C. 07.06.01] to invoke S13.24, taking charge and control of the property of Redeemer, Philadelphia (East Falls), and to hold, manage, and convey the same on behalf of the synod.

S. C. 10.06.08 RESOLVED THAT, upon the recommendation of the Trustees appointed under the authority of constitutional provision S13.24 by the Synod Council on June 7, 2007, the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council takes official action to close Redeemer Lutheran Church, Philadelphia (East Falls), effective June 10, 2010, and directs the Office of the Bishop to report the closing of this congregation to the Office of the Secretary, ELCA.

First, Collingdale

S. C. 13.12.11 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council acknowledges with sadness the action of First Lutheran Church, Collingdale, to close, effective April 11, 2010, on which date the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod received the property of First, Collingdale, in accordance with the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, specifically 9.71.b., +S13.23., and *C7.01.; and, on this date, December 12, 2013, authorizes the Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, or the Bishop's representative(s), to sell the property on behalf of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod.

150th Anniversary of the Philadelphia Seminary

Bishop Burkat asked for the Synod Council's thoughts on whether the synod should secure a table for ten at a cost of \$10,000 at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia's 150th Anniversary Grand Banquet on October 16, 2014. The consensus of the Synod Council was that the synod not secure a table at the banquet.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Ms. Jill Meuser, Chair, Constitution Committee, presented the following resolutions, which the Synod Council approved *en bloc*:

S. C. 13.12.12 RESOLVED that the Synod Council grants full approval to the constitution of Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Souderton.

S. C. 13.12.13 RESOLVED that the Synod Council grants full approval to the constitution of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ridge Valley, Sellersville.

S. C. 13.12.14 RESOLVED that the Synod Council grants provisional approval to the constitution of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, with the provision that the 2013 changes to the ELCA Model Constitutions for Congregations be incorporated in accordance with paragraph *C17.04. A list of items will be sent to the congregation.

S. C. 13.12.15 RESOLVED that the Synod Council grants provisional approval to the constitution of Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church, Huntingdon Valley, with the provision that typographical errors are corrected and the 2013 changes to the ELCA Model Constitutions for Congregations be incorporated in accordance with paragraph *C17.04. A list of items will be sent to the congregation.

She reported that the Constitution Committee received the constitution of Community of Love, Oxford, and that approval of that constitution was pending and awaiting congregational response.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Beasley encouraged Synod Council members to let her know if they are going to be absent in order to better facilitate meal planning.

She invited the Synod Council committees to engage in a process of re-thinking their purpose if necessary. She thanked them for the work that they do behind the scenes.

Synod Capital Campaign

Vice President Beasley opened the floor for questions or comments on the proposed Synod Capital Campaign.

Synod Council members and synod staff, who participated in the process of selecting a consulting firm for the Synod Capital Campaign and/or who had previous experience with Kairos and Associates, noted the ability of the Kairos team to integrate spirituality and fundraising.

Ms. Susan Pursch raised a concern that some may perceive the campaign as a spiritual assessment rather than a fund raiser.

Mr. Robert Hensil noted that Kairos and Associates offers benefits to congregations beyond fund raising.

The Reverend Karl Richard added that, based on his experience with Kairos and Associates, the team is “very clear about raising money.”

Mr. Rodman Rothermel requested that the Kairos team provide guidelines for what they intend to produce financially.

The Reverend Paul Sorcek noted that an assessment was necessary before any fund raising goals could be produced.

The Reverend William Rex asked where the money for Kairos and Associates’ fee and ancillary expenses would come from.

Ms. Neff answered that the synod would take a loan from the *Fund for Mission* to pay Kairos and Associates’ fee and ancillary expenses.

Bishop Burkat added that, as the campaign develops, the leadership of the campaign would be looking for major donors and “not count on congregations to carry the ball” for the campaign.

Mr. Rothermel requested that a financial goal be placed in the resolution.

Bishop Burkat suggested that the synod “let Kairos [and Associates] tell us what the goal is after doing the assessment.”

Sister Mary Julia McKenzie requested that the Synod Council have an opportunity to meet with the Kairos team.

Bishop Burkat said that the Kairos team would welcome such a meeting.

Pastor Sorcek requested that the resolution include a cap on the synod's financial responsibility to Kairos and Associates and state the source of funding for the firm's proposed fee and ancillary expenses. He provided suggested wording for the resolution.

After conferring with Bishop Burkat, Vice President Beasley announced that the Kairos team would be invited to attend the Synod Council meeting on March 20, 2014.

After reaching a consensus on the wording of the resolution, the Synod Council approved the following:

S. C. 13.12.16 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council expresses its sincere and heartfelt support for the synod's Capital Campaign as presented in concept in the Case Statement affirmed by the Synod Council at its meeting on September 19, 2013 (S. C. 13.09.06);

RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council authorizes representatives of this synod to sign a contract with Kairos and Associates for the use of its services in support of the Synod Capital Campaign as presented in the proposal submitted by Kairos and Associates and dated November 2013. The total campaign expenses shall not exceed \$200,000 with such funds coming as a loan from the *Fund for Mission* and shall be re-paid to the *Fund for Mission* from the first contributions received by the campaign.

RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council authorizes a newly appointed development team to revise the campaign components and strategy as necessary during the course of the campaign and will advise the Synod Council of the same;

RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council thanks the congregations of this synod and their individual members for their ongoing stewardship and generosity through regular offerings that support the mission and ministry of this church; and

RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council invites the congregations of this synod and their individual members to participate in the Synod Capital Campaign and to make a contribution over the course of the campaign.

MINISTRY EMPHASIS

Mr. Dan Scharnhorst, Executive Director, Bear Creek Camp, offered highlights of this year's summer camping season. He noted the following:

- Summer camp attendance was 709 in 2013. In 2012, it had been 632.
- Congregations of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod provided 263 of those campers, an increase of 20%.
- Summer camp attendance in 2013 was 53% of capacity.

He encouraged congregations to schedule visits by camp staff to their churches, because “church visits produce campers!” Through these visits and other means, he concluded, Bear Creek Camp is working to “keep the momentum going.”

The Synod Council adjourned at 7:00 p.m. The Reverend Regina Goodrich offered prayer.

The 129th meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council is Thursday, March 20, 2014, 4:00 p.m., New Hanover Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville.

The Reverend Raymond A. Miller
Secretary
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

MINUTES
Of the 129th MEETING
Of the SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD COUNCIL
Of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
March 20, 2014
New Hanover Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, PA

Ms. Tracey Beasley, Vice President, called to order the One Hundred Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council at 4:15 p.m.

The Reverend Thomas Lang, Pastor, New Hanover, Gilbertsville, welcomed Synod Council members and the Reverend William Vanderslice, Dean, Upper Montgomery Conference, led devotions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Synod Council approved the minutes of the 128th meeting of the Synod Council as presented.

SETTING OF THE AGENDA

Vice President Beasley presented the agenda for the 129th meeting.

BISHOP’S REPORT

The Reverend Claire Burkat, Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, welcomed new staff members: the Reverend Susan Lang, Assistant Events Planner, and Mr. Martin Schwab, Senior Accountant. She expressed thanks to the Synod Council members who are completing terms this year.

Synod Capital Campaign

Bishop Burkat began by reporting that “our partnership with Kairos has begun,” noting that:

- Synod Council members, staff, and deans met with Kairos representatives on February 1, 2014.
- Landscape Surveys have been distributed to the synod’s key lay and rostered leaders; approximately 350 have been completed.
- Key leaders from many of the synod’s teams have been invited to a Bishop’s Summit on March 26 or March 27, 2014.

She presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.01 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves the following resolution for presentation to the 2014 Synod Assembly and recommends approval by the assembly, pending a favorable report from Kairos on the feasibility of a capital campaign:

In order to equip, strengthen, and grow the congregations and leaders of this territory, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, enter a capital funding campaign by which to clarify and communicate a compelling vision, engage congregations in a process of discovery and growth, and develop resources necessary to achieve the mission to which we believe God is calling us.

Sabbatical Team

Bishop Burkat reported that, in response to **S. A. 12.05.15**, she has appointed an *ad hoc* committee to report to the 2014 Synod Assembly on sabbatical guidelines for rostered leaders, adding that the Reverend Julie Bergdahl has agreed to serve as chair.

Lutheran Charities Future

Bishop Burkat gave an update on the activity of the Lutheran Charities Future Committee, which has been working to craft a new Lutheran Charities Appeal. The appeal will serve the Lutheran social ministry organizations, related to the synod, and their constituents by addressing their marketing and development needs.

JCRC Trip to Israel

In February of this year, Bishop Burkat reported that she, the Reverends Patricia Davenport and Ellen Meissgeier, and Dr. Jon Paul joined a group of seventeen religious leaders on an interfaith trip to Israel and Palestine, sponsored by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Philadelphia (JCRC). The group visited many Jewish and Christian holy sites, and Israeli historical sites and had the opportunity to dialogue with various persons at these sites.

Conference of Bishops

On March 3, 2014, Bishop Burkat reported, the ELCA Conference of Bishops approved the extension of *on leave from call* status for the Reverends Sozinho Alves, J. Christian McMullan, and David Oppold as requested by the Synod Council.

Action on the Roster

Calls to Specialized Ministry

The Reverend Raymond Miller, Secretary, presented the following resolutions, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.02 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves a one-year term non-stipendiary call to Ms. Kathie Afflerbach to serve the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia as Coordinator for Non-Credit Education, effective June 7, 2014, renewable on an annual basis.

S. C. 14.03.03 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves, in accord with bylaw 7.41.15., in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, a call to serve in Unusual Circumstances to the Reverend Leslie M. Richard for a period of one year effective June 1, 2014, and ending May 31, 2015, renewable on an annual basis.

On Leave from Call Requests

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.04 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *on leave from call* status to Sister Maggie Thorne, 1st year, effective January 11, 2014, and the Reverend Harold Evans, first year, effective April 1, 2014.

Retirement Requests

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.05 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants *retirement* status to the Reverends George M. Harpel, effective February 1, 2014; Peter C. Hutchinson, effective March 1, 2014; David L. Stickley, effective March 1, 2014; and Danny Bodine, effective May 1, 2014.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Vice President Beasley reported that, at its meeting on March 6, 2014, the Executive Committee discussed at length the financial proposals which will come before the Synod Council later in this meeting. She also noted that the Reverend Karl Richard has been appointed the Chair of the Finance Committee.

She also indicated that, in the Vice President's report to the Synod Assembly, she would highlight "what is going on in the synod," rather than offer a review of Synod Council actions.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Affirmation of Previous Email Votes

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.06 RESOLVED THAT the Synod Council affirms its approval of the following resolutions by email vote:

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council requests that the ELCA Conference of Bishops approve a first two-year extension of *on leave from call for graduate study* status for the Reverend Christian McMullan, effective January 5, 2014.

RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council requests that the ELCA Conference of Bishops approve a one-year extension of *on leave from call* status for the Reverend Sozinho Alves, effective January 1, 2014.

Bishop Burkat noted that the Office of Secretary of the ELCA recommended that the Reverend Sozinho Alves apply for a non-stipendiary call to be issued by the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council.

Approval of the LSMS of Philadelphia (LSH) Bylaws

Secretary Miller reported that the Lutheran Social Mission Society of Philadelphia (Lutheran Settlement House) updated its bylaws in 2012 and requests that, in accordance of Section 11 of those bylaws, the synod approve them. He noted that the society's attorney has reviewed the updated bylaws and that the updated bylaws would also need to be approved by the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission unit. He presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.07 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves the *Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Lutheran Social Mission Society of Philadelphia* as adopted by the society's Board of Directors in 2012.

Rule Governing Committee on Discipline Elections at the 2014 Synod Assembly

Secretary Miller presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.08 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council establishes the following rule at the 2014 Synod Assembly for the election of members of the Committee of Discipline:

After the presiding officer declares the two clergy, one lay man, and one lay woman elected for terms ending 2020, the next runners-up shall be declared elected to the available positions; the total number of votes received by the nominees determining their length of term. As such, the clergy receiving the third and fourth most votes shall be declared elected to terms ending 2018, the clergy receiving the fifth most votes shall be declared elected to a term ending 2016, the lay man receiving the second most votes shall be declared elected to a term ending 2018, the lay man receiving the third most votes shall be declared elected to a term ending 2016; and the lay woman receiving the second most votes shall be declared elected to a term ending 2016. If a nominee declines election, the nominee with the next most votes on that particular ticket shall be declared elected for the stated term.

Report of the Constitution Committee to the 2014 Synod Assembly

Secretary Miller reviewed the report of the Constitution Committee to the 2014 Synod Assembly, noting that the assembly would be asked to consider amendments to S.7.23. and S7.26., both recommended for approval by action of the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, and S12.01.02., an amendment in which the number of conferences in the synod would no longer be specified.

TREASURER'S AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Finance Committee

Finance Committee Duties and Functions

Upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, Pastor Richard, Chair, Finance Committee, presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved as a continuing resolution by the required two-thirds vote:

S. C. 14.03.09 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves by two-thirds vote the following document *Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Finance Committee Duties and Functions* as a continuing resolution of this synod:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Finance Committee Duties and Functions

Organization and Purpose

The Finance Committee of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Synod) is established by the Synod Council as a committee of Synod Council to work with the Office of the Bishop, the Synod Business Office, the Synod Treasurer, and the Synod Council to offer recommendations for the financial management of the Synod to ensure that the Synod is able to work on its core mission, as amended from time to time, of *equipping the saints and congregations for the work of ministry for building up the body of Christ*. The Finance Committee shall have primary responsibility for presenting a comprehensive budget to the Synod Council for its consideration.

Goals

1. To provide for the Synod's financial management

2. To periodically review the Synod's financial policies and procedures for necessary changes. (The Office of the Bishop has established the procedures consistent with ELCA procedures and Auditor recommendations.)
3. To assure the reliability of systems, processes and people to support the financial reporting needs of the Synod.
4. To provide for financial transparency.
5. To study and communicate the greater economic and financial environment in order to forecast trends that can significantly influence financial decisions.
6. To ensure that the Synod Council receives accurate and complete information.

Responsibilities

The SEPA Finance Committee shall:

1. Provide oversight of the development of the annual budget and presentation to the Synod Council.
2. Review adherence to the budget.
3. Provide recommendations to the Office of the Bishop and Synod Council as needed to review the budget for variations.
4. Oversee and offer recommendations for improvement of processes and procedures for the financial management of the Synod.
5. Cooperate with the Audit, Stewardship, Investment Committee, and other Committees of the Synod Council.
6. Present the following year's budget for consideration by the Synod Council.
7. Meet no less than quarterly
8. Provide Synod Council with reports and recommendations at its regular meetings.
9. The Chair of the committee will serve on the Fund for Mission committee with the Bishop, Treasurer, and the Bishop's Appointee, to discuss and decide appropriate disbursements from the Fund to Synod ministries.

The Office of the Bishop shall:

1. Present a Budget for review by the committee with ample time for recommendations.
2. Provide monthly reports on the investable assets including receipts, disbursements, and gains/losses.
3. Provide monthly reports by [date to be determined] of each month:
 - a. Congregational Pledges
 - b. Congregational Receipts
 - c. Income Statement
 - d. Balance Sheet
 - e. Income/Expense compared to Budget by line item

Membership

The committee shall consist of at least five members and not more than eight in addition to the Bishop and Treasurer. Members of the committee will be appointed by the Bishop and Vice President of the Synod. The membership of the Committee shall include:

1. A Chairperson appointed by the Bishop and the Vice President, who shall be a member of Synod Council.
2. At least 3 members of Synod Council
3. Voting members from SEPA Synod congregations who have accounting and/or financial management skills and experience
4. The Bishop and the Treasurer are Ex-Officio members of the committee

5. The term of the non-Synod Council members shall be three years. The non-Synod Council members may serve two consecutive terms. The terms of the non-Synod Council members shall be staggered in a manner determined by the Synod Council Executive Committee.

A representative(s) of the Business Office shall attend Finance Committee meetings.

Conflict of Interest: Any possible conflict of interest on the part of any member shall be disclosed, in writing, to the committee annually.

a. Any member having a possible conflict of interest in any transaction being considered at a committee meeting shall not be counted in determining the quorum for the meeting and shall not vote or use personal influence to affect the vote concerning such transaction.

b. All new members shall be advised promptly of the requirements of this section.

Resolution Concerning Support of Lutheran Charities, Agencies and Ministries

Pastor Richard presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.10 Whereas there have been questions raised as to how congregational offerings might best be submitted to various Lutheran benevolent causes, and

Whereas there has been a practice by some congregations to send such offerings through the Synod treasurer, while other congregations send them directly to the recipient, and

Whereas the benefit to the recipient is delayed with the extra step of routing gifts through the Synod treasurer, and

Whereas the added time for processing these “pass through” funds takes extra time for a now reduced Synod staff,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council requests that congregations be encouraged to submit Lutheran benevolent gifts, except Synod Mission Support and/or ELCA Partnership Support, directly to the Charity, Agency or Ministry to which they are directed, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Synod office develop and publish a plan for how congregations may make such direct contributions.

Allocation of Proceeds from the Sale of Closed Congregation Properties

Pastor Richard presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved by the required two-thirds vote:

S. C. 14.03.11 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council rescinds all of its previous resolutions regarding the allocation of proceeds from the sale of closed congregation buildings, including but not limited to S. C. 04.02.08.

Pastor Richard presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved by the required majority vote:

S. C. 14.03.12 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council establishes as the policy of this synod that, when this synod sells the property of a closed congregation, fifteen percent of the sale price of that property shall be placed in the synod's operating account;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, after fifteen percent of the sale price of that property has been deducted for the synod's operating account, an amount equal to the synod's expenses related to the properties the synod has under management shall be deducted from the net balance to reimburse the synod for those expenses;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, after an amount equal to the synod's expenses related to the properties the synod has under management have been deducted, the remaining balance of proceeds shall be placed in the synod's *Fund for Mission*.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Janet Neff, Treasurer, reported that, for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2014, congregational support exceeded the amount budgeted by \$38,677 and that total expenses were below budget by \$14,129.

Recommendation for Synod Assembly Approval of the 2015 Proposed Mission Budget

Ms. Neff presented the 2015 proposed mission budget:

S. C. 14.03.13 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council recommends the 2015 proposed mission budget, with expenditures of \$2,222,200 and the synod's Proportionate Share to the ELCA being set at 50 percent, for presentation to and approval by the 2014 Synod Assembly.

Both Mr. Rod Rothermel and Ms. Susan Pursch expressed concern about the anticipated \$289,100 deficit in the mission section of the proposed budget.

Bishop Burkat responded that the deficit is "why we are having capital campaign."

Ms. Joyce Brown Adams expressed gratitude to the synod for the use of mission funds to support her congregation, Faith Immanuel, East Lansdowne.

The Reverend Charles Leonard noted that the dilemma facing the Synod Council at this time is that "we want fiscal prudence and ministry at the same time." He said that, in this tension, "ministry comes first," adding that "we must move forward and trust that the Holy Spirit will be there."

The Synod Council approved the resolution.

Requesting a moment of personal privilege, the Reverend Christopher Weidner, former Chair, Finance Committee thanked Synod Council members for their immense support on the loss of his beloved wife Jane, noting that “I am healing.”

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Reverend Larry Smoose reported that the Stewardship Committee is trying to model good stewardship at all levels, synod for congregations and congregations for members. In that regard, he added that, if the committee is able to offer a consistent message, that message will allow more money for mission.

He asked Synod Council members to assist in identifying people in each conference who would want to be a part of the synod’s stewardship efforts. Committee members would train these people to do stewardship workshops on the territory of each conference.

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

Ms. Jill Meuser, Chair, Constitution Committee, presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.14 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants full approval to the constitution of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, Morrisville, PA.

She reported that the constitutions of Gloria Dei, Huntingdon Valley; Community of Love, Oxford; and Good Shepherd, Southampton, are still pending.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Reverend Sandra Brown, Chair, Nominating Committee, reported that, at this date, almost all of the election tickets for presentation to the 2014 Synod Assembly have a sufficient number of nominees. She then reviewed the list of nominees. The deadline for the submission of the Nominating Report is March 28, 2014.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice President Beasley reported that the Executive Committee is asking Synod Council members to help with registration at the Synod Assembly.

She presented the following resolution, which the Synod Council approved:

S. C. 14.03.15 RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approves the proposed agenda for the 2014 Synod Assembly as presented.

The Reverend Regina Goodrich reported that Saturday, March 22, is Vice President Beasley’s birthday. Synod Council members responded by singing *Happy Birthday*.

Ms. Joanne Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Mission and Events, reported that Mr. Tom McPherson, one of the synod's missionaries, contracted malaria and is recovering.

The Synod Council adjourned at 6:45 p.m. The Reverend William Vanderslice offered prayer.

The 130th meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council is Thursday, June 5, 2014, 4:00 p.m., at a location to be determined.

The Reverend Raymond A. Miller
Secretary, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA