

**MINUTES**  
**of the 150<sup>th</sup> MEETING**  
**of the SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD COUNCIL**  
**of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
**Reformation Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, PA**  
**April 5, 2018**

Vice President Tracey A. Beasley welcomed the Synod Council, and thanked the Reverend Nate Preisinger, host pastor, who brought words of welcome.

Pr. Preisinger shared that at Reformation they focus on hospitality and welcome, from AA to girl scouts to other community groups, they strive to make all feel welcome. He noted that if any member or their congregation wishes to have an event in the city, they should keep Reformation in mind.

Pr. Preisinger led a brief devotion on John 21:12 “come, have breakfast with me.” We experience the resurrection in meals, in eating together, in experience.

Vice President Beasley, a member of Reformation, closed the devotion with prayer.

Vice President Beasley called the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Synod Council to order at 4:09 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the 149<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Synod Council were approved as presented.

**SETTING THE AGENDA**

The Synod Council adopted the Agenda for the 150<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented.

**REPORT OF THE BISHOP**

**Thank you to outgoing Council members**

Bishop Burkat expressed her thanks to the members of the Synod Council who are completing their terms, and are ineligible for re-election:

**Ms. Susan Pursch** has served in many areas of our Synod, including as a former Vice President. She has been active in the ministry of our Synod for about four decades. One of the most significant projects in which Susan has been involved is the work of founding and funding the construction of Sebastian Kolowa Memorial University in the North East Dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania. Not only did she do a great deal of the fund raising, she also solicited support from persons from Ken Crest and Temple University to create the curriculum for the school. The university now graduates 1,000 people each year, training leaders with sensitivity to, and advocacy for, people with special needs.

Susan currently serves as the chair of our Audit Committee, and has been a key part of the Discernment Team in the process for the election of our next bishop.

**Mr. Robert Hensil** has served faithfully, and has been involved behind the scenes in ways that many will never know. He has served on the Executive Committee, and as chair of the Committee on Bishop’s Election for our last two elections. He has helped during the legal issues with the former Redeemer, East Falls, and has been a valuable source of advice and counsel over the years.

Thank you both. Well done, good and faithful servants!

## **Conference of Bishops**

Bishop Burkat shared extensively in her written report from her time at the Conference of Bishops meeting. This was her last meeting, and she wanted to share with the Council the types of work the Conference addresses.

Among the things she highlighted:

- Three first call candidates were assigned to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod; Lauren Heywood, Danny Phelps, and Daniel Smith. Lauren is currently working at Holy Trinity, Narberth as a senior seminarian; Danny Phelps is completing his two year co-op internship at Bethany, Roxborough; Daniel Smith is serving as senior seminarian at St. Matthew, Springfield.
- The ELCA Campaign has reached 72% of its \$198 million goal in cash and commitments.
- The ELCA is making intentional strides to increase diversity. Continuing Resolutions are being enacted that will ask each synod to develop strategies to increase diversity within its territory.
- There was a presentation on congregational vitality with some key insights. Among these are a congregation's vitality is not related to its location (rural, suburban, or urban); vitality does not equal sustainability; and from congregational reports, fewer than 20% of our congregations consider themselves highly vital.
- There will be 11 bishop elections this year; at least 6 elections will result in a new bishop being chosen.

On Friday, the second of the four days she was able to attend, the Conference held a lovely farewell and thank you for her, for which she was very grateful.

## **United Lutheran Seminary**

Bishop Burkat had to leave the Conference of Bishops early to deal with issues at the United Lutheran Seminary. The ongoing controversy regarding the transparency, or perceived lack thereof, in the process of selecting the president of the school continues to have a huge impact. Bishop Burkat finds herself in a position of dual roles: one as a member of the Board of Directors of the seminary; one as the Bishop for approximately 30 LGBTQIA+ leaders and seminarians who have varying opinions about the issue and its impact.

In retrospect, Bishop Burkat can see and identify ways in which she, and the Board, could have been more proactive, and possibly have avoided some of the pain and controversy. But as it is, the Board is striving to move forward as faithfully as possible.

She expressed her dismay that the issue continued to escalate over social media, and wishes all involved could have approached the situation with a bit more compassion and grace, while speaking truth and calling for transparency and accountability.

It has become clear that there are many instances of micro-aggression that the LGBTQIA+ community senses and feels every day. This situation has also raised concerns from other constituent groups, particularly African Americans and other persons of color, who also experience the sting of being discounted. There will need to be ongoing conversation and dialogue to bring peace and healing to this institution and the Church.

Bishop Burkat is hopeful that with half the board either ending their terms, or leaving in light of the controversy, there will be the chance for a fresh start with fresh eyes and less personal history. "New wine cannot be held in old wineskins."

The bishop noted how much change has happened at the seminary in a very short period of time. When Dr. Lose came he had three years to turn the organization around. It quickly became clear the only viable solution for both schools was to merge. This happened in 18 months, and there are still many underlying issues and injuries that need to be addressed, but it will take time. Yet in spite of all this, we have record enrollment with 110 new students who have a more united sense of the school and its ministry, rather than the division we have had in the past between Philadelphia and Gettysburg.

Bishop Burkat opened the floor for discussion.

Mr. Albert Glenn noted that his source of information is the Philadelphia Inquirer. He asked if it is true that Dr. Latini actually did reveal her involvement with the group in question as part of the process.

Bishop Burkat said that yes, Dr. Latini had revealed this, but only to the board president, not to the search committee.

Ms. Lisa Hand asked why the president of the board did not share it with the committee.

Bishop Burkat said that Dr. Brown had done her own investigation early in the process. She felt this information was from long enough ago, and not part of Dr. Latini's body of work for the past two decades, that it did not seem to her to be an issue that needed to be raised.

The bishop went on to say that this is a hugely public position, and as such, nothing can be left out of the process. One always has to lean toward more disclosure, rather than less.

Mr. Robert Hensil said he has read a great deal on social media about this. It does not appear as though anyone asked the question "Is there anything in your background that could come back to embarrass this institution?" It seems that the board was so impressed with her paperwork and her presentation that this basic question fell through the cracks.

The Reverend Serena Sellers said she is not hearing 100% agreement regarding the actions of the Board. Some people feel the students were too reactive; and then the board was too reactive in its response, and so perhaps the decision to terminate the president was not truly fair.

Bishop Burkat replied that the Board was caught with a short school semester and a wide 15 synod constituency, the reality of which gave pressure for a swift, definitive response to avoid further rumors and innuendo. The board tried to find a third way, but could not determine one in the time they felt was available.

The Reverend Brad Burke, Assistant to the Bishop, shared that he feels some of the real mistake was that this issue was brought to Dr. Latini and she did not address it early enough.

Mr. Adam Clarke said he has been raised to know that people change, but if Dr. Latini did not come out with this information early how does it make the members of the LGBTQ community feel?

Ms. Susan Pursch noted that we live in a hyper sensitive time, and we need to be aware of that, like it or not.

Ms. Elizabeth Young stated in this time people believe a church should be better and above this kind of thing; it puts more pressure on situations like these.

The Reverend Patricia Davenport, Director of Evangelical Mission, said issues surrounding the merger are part of what made this so powerful. What will the seminary do about the issues of the people of color which were finally being heard? Persons of color are now fearful that their issues will no longer be addressed in light of this concern. Pr. Davenport asked Bishop Burkat to be sure to use the remainder of her time on the board to continue to advocate for those issues, and not allow them to be left behind in the conversation.

Bishop Burkat agreed that we need to push for these concerns. We in the Philadelphia region have a particular awareness of these issues, and we need to be sure we do not let them go without being addressed.

Pr. Sellers suggested to the bishop that while she still has a voice on the board, that she encourage the board to publish the names of the new members of the board as soon as possible, and the background they bring, to show that we are moving forward.

Bishop Burkat said that the seminary is putting out a weekly update on what Acting President James Dunlop is doing, and is trying to be transparent.

Ms. Young inquired as to what we can do. Just receiving the seminary updates seems too passive.

Bishop Burkat pointed out that getting the updates allows one to review the information, and then to get a sense of whether or not things seem to make sense. If there is something that seems untoward, then one can reach out at that time asking for clarity or seeking correction. But if one is not getting the updates, one cannot know when to raise a question or sound an alarm.

### **Farewell to Pastor Regina D. Goodrich**

The bishop shared with the Synod Council that the Reverend Regina Goodrich has been elected Dean of the Central Philadelphia Conference, and so this will be her last meeting with us. Pr. Goodrich has served for some time on this Council, having previously served for two terms, and now she is in the second round of two terms. “Pastor Gee” has a broad sense of the work of the Church and the ministry of the Synod. She will be a good asset as Dean of the Central Philadelphia Conference.

### **Congregational Council Officers Gathering**

Bishop Burkat thanked Vice President Beasley for her very fine job presenting an overview of the process for the election of a bishop to the leaders gathered for this event.

Bishop Burkat shared with the officers various statistics from the Synod Mission Profile of congregational ministries that ended since 2,000. Of the 13 congregations or missions that closed, 7 were in suburban settings, and 6 were in urban settings. Three of these congregations filed lawsuits, each one over a daycare that made claim to the property in some form or another. We need to be clear about our relationships between schools and congregations, and clear about titles to properties we may hold. Another issue with which we need to deal is congregation owned cemeteries, and the legal issues surrounding them. Of particular concern is the need to follow state laws regarding perpetual care of the cemetery, whether or not the congregation continues to exist at that site.

The bishop also shared some of the statistics regarding our rostered leaders, and the impact that may have for the church and the next bishop. We have 114 pastors that are between 70 and 92. This will mean a significant amount of the next bishop's time will be dedicated to pastoral care for these leaders and their families. We have 65 pastors that are between the ages of 60 and 69, which means as many as 2/3 of them will be retiring in the next six years. This will impact our need for interim ministers, and for attracting people into ministry to fill these spaces. We have 50 pastors between the ages of 45 and 59, and 47 pastors under the age of 45. We have been very good at gaining younger pastors to serve in our congregations and ministry sites, but will need to be creative and intentional about recruiting more young ministers to lead us into the future.

### **March to End Racism**

The March to End Racism took place in Washington D.C. on April 4, and was coordinated around the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This march was not as well attended as many hoped it would be. It was impacted by weather concerns that caused some speakers not to be able to address the gathering. Presiding Bishop Eaton of the ELCA and Presiding Bishop Curry of the ECUSA were two of the guests that were not able to speak. Even though the numbers were low, and the rain interfered, it was good to have the Church make a public stand on an issue of such importance.

Pr. Davenport said that even though they did not have their speaking slots, it was a very powerful image to see Bishops Eaton and Curry stand together to show we are addressing this issue not in isolation, but together as the Body of Christ.

### **Actions on the Roster**

The Reverend Karl M. Richard, Secretary, then presented the actions on the roster.

#### ***Extension of a Term Call:***

**S.C.18.04.01. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council call the Rev. Joseph Varsanyi to a part-time, two-year term call to serve at St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Kensington Philadelphia, effective May 20, 2018 and ending May 19, 2020.**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

Mr. Phil Tackett, a member at St. Peter Hilltown, where Pr. Varsanyi currently serves, asked that due consideration be given to St. Peter as they have been growing under Pr. Varsanyi's leadership, and most people will be surprised and saddened to hear of this change.

Bishop Burkat assured Mr. Tackett that St. Peter will not be forgotten. Pr. Varsanyi has unique gifts for the ministry at St. Michael, and that is why the change has come so quickly. If St. Peter was not a stable as it is now, the move would not have been considered.

*Extension of Non-stipendiary Call:*

**S.C.18.04.02.THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council extends the non-stipendiary call to the Rev. Dr. Anita Baly as pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Plymouth Meeting, PA beginning April 30, 2018 to December 31, 2018.**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

*Renewal of Calls to Specialized Ministry:*

**S.C.18.04.03. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council, in accord with bylaw 7.41.15., in the *Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*, renew a call as Spiritual Director to the Rev. Leslie M. Richard under *Unusual Circumstance* for a period of one year effective June 1, 2018. (*Renewable on an annual basis.*)**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

*Request for Synod Council Approval to Move from Active Roster to Retired Roster:*

**S.C. 18.04.04. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants the Reverend Cheryl Hensil retirement status effective July 1, 2018**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

*On Leave from Call Request:*

**S.C. 18.04.05. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants the Rev. Jonathan Shin on leave from call status, 2<sup>nd</sup> year, effective February 1, 2018**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

*Request for Synod Council Approval of On Leave Extensions:*

**S.C. 18.04.06. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants the Rev. Harold Evans extended on leave from call status, 5<sup>th</sup> year, effective April 1, 2018**

**S.C. 18.04.07. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants Deacon Suzanne Rigg extended on leave from call status, 4<sup>th</sup> year, effective May 31, 2018**

**S.C. 18.04.08. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants the Rev. Margaret Ainslie extended on leave from call status, 7<sup>th</sup> year, effective June 30, 2018 (*Study Leave*)**

**S.C. 18.04.09. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council grants the Rev. Kristine Peterson extended on leave from call status, 5<sup>th</sup> year, effective July 14, 2018**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolutions.**

#### **Information Not Requiring Action**

##### ***Transfers:***

The Rev. Kristina Ahlman from Northwestern Ohio Synod effective December 1, 2017

The Rev. Heidi Rodrick-Schnaath from New Jersey Synod effective April 1, 2018

##### ***Deaths:***

Deacon George S. Edwards, which occurred March 12, 2018

Sister Janice E. Painter, which occurred March 22, 2018

#### **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Vice President Beasley referenced her written report.

#### **Bear Creek Camp Lease**

Vice President Beasley informed the Synod Council that an extension of 10 years to the lease of property to Bear Creek Camp has been authorized. This extension will relieve some concerns the Camp has had regarding tax status for at least a decade.

Ms. Pursch asked whose responsibility it is to renegotiate this lease.

Vice President Beasley said that the lawyers for the two synods which have joint ownership, that is, Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Southeastern Pennsylvania, have this responsibility.

Mr. Glenn asked about the nature of the lease.

The vice president said that the synods lease the land to the Camp, which coincidentally, is also owned by the synods.

#### **In the City for Good, Again**

A request had come from the Central Philadelphia Conference to meet with the Executive Committee to discuss their concerns of support for congregations in the City of Philadelphia. Four representatives came to this meeting: Pr. Carlton Rodgers, Dean of Central Philadelphia Conference; Pr. Noah Hepler; Pr. Paul Hagedorn; and Ms. Fern Hagedorn.

This team had asked for help in the past, and Bishop Burkat had asked them to come up with a defined strategy, needed funds and human resources for the strategy, and an assessment of what

they would be willing to invest to make this strategy work. When this was complete she would then work with them to analyze their plans and discuss possibilities for implementation.

At this meeting there was not evidence that they had started such intentional, strategic work yet.

Vice President Beasley expressed her displeasure that this team began taking their own notes at the meeting as though they were in charge of this event, rather than waiting for the official minutes of the meeting to be released for action.

This team then published their own minutes, which were extensive and filled with commentary, to members and congregations in the Synod, particularly in the Central Conference. Vice President Beasley expressed her feelings that this was highly inappropriate, and very negative and prejudicial in its assessment of the action of the Executive Committee and the Synod.

Not only were their opinions circulated to various persons within the Synod, this team also sent their concerns to the Churchwide offices, asking for assistance from Chicago before they came to the Executive Committee with their concerns.

Ms. Pursch stated that she is offended that this went to the ELCA without being dealt with at the Synod level first. This makes the Synod look as though it does not know what its people are doing, and that we are not being proactive in addressing the needs for ministry in our territory. In addition, we are now left with hard feelings between the Synod and the Central Conference.

Ms. Lisa Hand asked if it went to Bishop Eaton, did she say anything to this team to send it back to the Synod Council first.

Pr. Davenport said Pr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA, did not send anything in writing, but did say that this should not have come to his attention without Synodical input and endorsement.

Pr. Goodrich, as new Dean of the Central Philadelphia Conference, shared that she is now inheriting this situation, but she wants the Council to know that not everyone in the Conference is behind this initiative, or even knows about it. There have been a few people who have been working on it. There is a meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup>, at which this document will be discussed. If the people of the Conference are on board, then the next steps will be pursued.

Bishop Burkat suggested the Executive Committee write a response to address the ways in which the Committee and the Council disagrees with the action to release this information, and delineate the errors contained in it.

Pr. Davenport suggested we simply follow the process already outlined by the Executive Committee in its notes from the meeting.

Ms. Pursch echoed the idea, saying we have the minutes from the meeting detailing the next steps we are looking to see, we have the email trail they have put forward, and we can address the situation by following the process agreed to, and not get drawn into someone else's agenda.

The Synod Council was in broad agreement with this course of action.

### **Election of the Bishop**

Vice President Beasley said the process we had established is being followed. The names of those pre-identified for consideration have been removed from the website. She thanked the members of the Discernment Team for the work they have been doing in this second stage of the process to prepare for the Election, encourage the making of prayer bracelets from across the Synod, compile the questions for those who will be the final three, and keeping the entire process in prayer.

Ms. Beasley also informed the Council that, since Secretary Richard is one of the pre-identified persons, if he is nominated at the Assembly, Pr. Rasmussen has been asked to be the acting secretary for the Assembly.

Ms. Pursch offered deep appreciation to Vice President Beasley for all her work in this process for electing our next bishop.

### **REPORT OF THE SECRETARY**

Secretary Richard offered words of clarification as to his role at the Assembly. He noted he had a conversation with ELCA Secretary Boerger, who said that the secretary does not have to recuse himself or herself during the process of the election of a bishop. It continues to be the role of the secretary to record the actions of the Assembly, and there is no conflict in doing so. This is why there is a representative from the Churchwide expression to oversee the process. Even if the secretary is in the process, it is the responsibility of the secretary to ensure the proper recording and posting of the minutes.

As such, Pr. Richard will be at the table taking the minutes until such time as he is, or is not, in the process by means of a vote at the Assembly. At such time as he needs to be involved in the process, he will yield the role to Pr. Rasmussen. Pr. Richard did not want there to be concerns or questions from the Council if they see him in his role as secretary at the beginning of the Assembly. Explanation of this will be made to the Assembly by the chair if it becomes necessary for Pr. Richard to step aside during the process.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Bert Glenn, chair of the Finance Committee, directed the Council to the reports that had been distributed. He said there was nothing unusual at this point. Expenses are on target; income is as expected. It is early in the year, only one month into the new fiscal cycle, and as a result there is not yet a trend to evaluate.

### **MISSION MOMENT**

Ms. Susan Pursch, chair of the Audit Committee, presented the audit as the Mission Moment.

She began by saying, “You may think you don’t care about the audit. But you need to care.” We are elected board members of this corporate body. Whether you are good at reading audits or not, you need to become good at it. This is the way in which we know what is holding up the

synod. The way you truly know where we are is by understanding where our money is invested and where it goes.

Look over the notes. The notes, which may be pages later from their reference, give you the detail of what is going on with our financial standing. For instance, look at the Fund for Mission. We have replenished much of this fund from the sales of closed properties.

About 60% of the pledges for the Forward Together in Faith Campaign have been realized. This is a rather strong percentage. There will still be more coming, and requests for gifts and pledges will still be made. The auditors think we are doing fairly well, and can anticipate that progress to continue for the next few years, as we have pledges that will go on beyond the stated end of the Campaign.

Overall we have had a very good year. Thank you to Bishop Burkat and her staff, and all who utilize operating expenses for the Synod. We are living within our means. We have come a tremendously long way in the management of our revenue and expenses. In the beginning of Bishop Burkat's service we had to make huge changes in our operation. This is paying off and we are doing well. However, we still need to increase partnership support.

Thanks are due to Mr. Martin Schwab, our Synod's senior accountant, for his exceptional service. We have financial reports that are accurate and helpful. We are using good financial vehicles with Razor's edge, and Martin has done very well at entering and maintaining the information correctly.

We have been very successful at selling our properties. This is good financially, but sad for the loss of the impact of those congregations we used to have in those regions and neighborhoods.

We have done very well with our investments. Thank you to Mr. Rod Rothermel for his work pushing us, and Mr. David Ehret for his faithful work and service in these investments. A 20% increase has been realized, which is amazing.

We have received an "A" rating and a clean audit. This is the first time Ms. Pursch has seen the Synod receive such a rating.

She issued just one word of warning: we have a surplus. We should not allow ourselves to be tempted to spend down this surplus as we start a new administration in the Synod.

The Audit Committee is one of the few constitutionally mandated committees. The committee picks the auditor, and Ms. Pursch and the current committee strongly encourage the next audit committee to retain Tait Weller again. They did a wonderful job, and we had a time to meet with the auditors, ask questions, and review the management letter.

Ms. Pursch then made the following motion for the Synod Council to consider:

**S.C. 18.04.10. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve that the Audit report be presented to the Synod Assembly for its reception.**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Forward Together in Faith Campaign**

About 60 churches made commitments or gifts. If you are not listed but you made a gift, please let Pr. Rachel Anderson know, because the congregations which have made gifts and/or pledges will be recognized at the Assembly.

### **Constitution**

Pr. Tyler Rasmussen brought the revised constitution for Temple, Havertown, to the Council for consideration. He moved the following:

**S.C. 18.04.11. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council approve the revised constitution for Temple, Havertown.**

**The Synod Council unanimously adopted the resolution.**

### **Investment**

Mr. David Ehret reported on the Investments with the phrase “what the market giveth, the market taketh away.” We are flat to date this year, down \$296.

### **Administration**

Mr. William Graham shared that there is a need for volunteers and pages for the Assembly. The team could use a dozen more. As people seek for volunteers, please share that pages can have their way to the Assembly paid as a visitor.

### **Nominating**

The Report of the Nominating Committee was shared with the Council as part of its packet for this meeting. There are candidates for all but one position. Vice President Beasley noted, however, that there were no identified candidates who are people of color, or whose primary language is other than English. We need to be intentional about reaching out to persons of color before the Assembly, as the current slate does not reflect our goal to have diversity represented in our committees and boards.

Ms. Pursch stated that when you look at the list of teams we have in our Synod we pride ourselves in our diversity. These teams could be a source of persons for the positions we need to fill for Synod Council, Churchwide Assembly, and the like.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Pr. Sellers observed that the Synod Council is not fully represented as supporters of the Forward Together in Faith Campaign. She noted that in her experience with fund raising it is important for the leadership to be fully committed. This may be with a very modest gift of a few dollars, but the ability to say the Council is 100% behind the effort is key in a successful campaign.

Vice President Beasley shared that conversations are being held with members of the Council to see if we can make this goal.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Bishop Burkat's Retirement Gala**

Bishop Burkat's retirement gala is scheduled for Sunday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at the Crystal Tea Room. The cost is \$115 per person. Forms are available at this meeting. There is also the possibility for persons or congregations to become sponsors of the event. You can also get a table for your congregation.

On Saturday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a family friendly event at the United Lutheran Seminary. This will be a free event, a party for people of all ages.

### **Thank You**

Vice President Beasley thanked Ms. Susan Pursch and Mr. Robert Hensil for their service to this Council. She also thanked Pr. Regina Goodrich, and wished her well in her new role as Dean.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

The 151<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Council will be held June 7, 2018, 4:00 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran, South Philadelphia.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Karl M. Richard, Secretary  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA

*Approved by Synod Council, June 7, 2018*