

**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ASSEMBLY  
May 4 & 5, 2018  
Franconia Mennonite Church, Telford, PA  
*Come, Holy Spirit***

**SUMMARY OF ACTIONS**

**Resolutions from the Treasurer and the Finance Committee**

**S. A. 18.05.01. RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly receives as information the report of the auditors of the synod's financial statements for the fiscal year ending 2017.**

The Assembly adopted the resolution.

*No further action required.*

**S. A. 18.05.02. RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the 2019 budget as presented.**

The Assembly adopted the resolution.

*No further action required.*

**Resolution from the Committee on Reference and Counsel**

**S. A. 18.05.03. RESOLVED THAT the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Assembly adopts the following Memorial on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ordination of Women, and transmit it for consideration by the 2019 Churchwide Assembly:**

**We call upon all synods in their 2020 assemblies to include celebration and special recognition of ordained women upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of authorizing this ordination practice; and**

**We call upon our seminaries, colleges, campus ministries, outdoor ministries, social ministry organizations, synods, and congregations to highlight women preachers, teachers and speakers throughout 2020 in recognition of the diversity of gifts women's ordination has brought to our church, urging all congregations to have an ordained woman preach and preside at a service in 2020.**

**We request all church publications to plan features in 2020 on the ordination of women, lifting up the amazing talents and gifts this church has received from its ordained women, the barriers ordained women still experience in this church, and the steps outlined in this memorial to overcome those barriers; and**

**We call upon congregations throughout the ELCA to participate in the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in our church through worship services, bible studies and other**

**efforts to celebrate and recognize the importance and contributions of ordained women; and**

**We call upon all members of this church to examine our consciences, and confess our sins and complicity in whichever circumstances by the outright or silent actions women have faced including barriers, discrimination, or sexual harassment as they prepared for and served as ordained women in this church; and**

**We call upon this church to renew efforts in education on the intersection of the sins of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, and classism, and develop healing interventions offering hope and support to those who experience these sins to the point of despair about ministry; and**

**We call upon our seminaries to include intentional coursework and resources to equip pastoral leaders in identifying and ministering in situations of gender-based discrimination and violence; and**

**We urge all congregations, synods, and church-wide organizations to use the social statement currently under development and its accompanying resources as a means of educating themselves about intersectionality and sexism; and**

**We urge all congregations, synods, candidacy committees, and the churchwide organization in 2020 to develop strategies to promote and protect gender equity and justice in all areas of their work and life, in light of the findings of the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary research; and**

**We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women comparable compensation with that of ordained men in all calls by 2024, reporting the outcome of this action step to the Conference of Bishops in 2024 and at the Churchwide Assembly in 2025; and**

**We call upon this church to establish goals and strategies in each synod of achieving for ordained women access to ministry roles where women are currently underrepresented, with a particular focus on the challenges faced by women of color receiving viable first and second calls; and**

**We call upon the churchwide expression's Domestic Mission Unit to develop, undertake, and successfully complete a strategy specifically related to the debt of women of color after seminary; and**

**We request the Office of the Presiding Bishop to provide in 2025 updated research on achievement of these initiatives and other matters pertinent to the full and just participation of ordained women in this church; and**

**We invite the prayers of all members of this church for the successful outcome of these initiatives.**

The Assembly overwhelmingly adopted the resolution.

Action: Referred to the Office of the Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for consideration by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in August, 2019

In addition to these resolutions:

### **Election of a Bishop**

The Synod elected, on the fourth ballot of the Ecclesiastical Balloting process, the Rev. Patricia A. Davenport to be Bishop of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA, with her term of service beginning August 1, 2018

### **Election of Synod Council members**

The Synod elected the following persons to serve on Synod Council:

Clergy:

The Rev. Tyler Rasmussen, Trinity, Pleasant Valley, second term

The Rev. Laura Tancredi, St. Paul, Ardmore, second term

The Rev. Matthew Staniz, St. Luke, Devon, first term

Lay members:

Ms. Joyce Maloney, Trinity, S. Philadelphia, second term, Central Philadelphia Conference Representative

Mr. Philip Tackett, St. Peter, Hilltown, second term, Upper Bucks Conference Representative

Ms. Doreen Kinzler, St. John, Philadelphia (Mayfair), first term, Lay Female at Large

Mr. J. Everett Wick, St. Andrew, Perkasio, first term, Lay Male at Large

### **Election of Voting Members to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Synod elected the following as voting members to the Churchwide Assembly:

Clergy:

The Rev. Susan Ericsson, St. Luke, Devon

The Rev. Gwendolyn S. King, Calvary, West Chester

The Rev. Linda Manson, Grace, Wyndmoor

The Rev. Jennifer Ollikainen, Trinity, Perkasio

The Rev. Bryan Penman, St. Mark, Conshohocken

The Rev. Lydia Posselt, Family of God, Buckingham

Lay members:

Mr. Emanuel Alves, Holy Communion, Philadelphia

Mr. Matthew Banda, Faith Immanuel, East Lansdowne  
Mr. Jeff Nase, St. John, Richlandtown  
Mr. Clark Shuster, Ascension, Newtown  
Mr. Paul Zeigler, St. Paul, Glenside  
Deacon Rachel Bailey, Grace, Pottstown  
Ms. Cynthia Moultrie, Christ, Upper Darby  
Ms. Katie Schnaath, St. Matthew, Perkasie (Keller's Church)  
Ms. Courtney Smith, Good Shepherd, King of Prussia

In addition to these persons, the Bishop-elect, Patricia A. Davenport, and the Vice President, Tracey A. Beasley, will also attend.

The delegation as currently configured includes 41% persons of color or whose primary language is other than English. ELCA goal is 10%; Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod's goal is 20%.

The Rev. Karl M. Richard, Secretary  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, ELCA