

SECTION G – REPORTS OF AGENCIES

1. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania
 2. Lutheran Archives Center at Philadelphia
 3. Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania
 4. Mission Investment Fund
 5. Religious Leaders Council of Greater Philadelphia
 6. Portico
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LAMPa (LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA)

In response to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just public policies in Pennsylvania that promote the common good. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans who are working to eradicate hunger are supported to voice their faith convictions in the public square with and on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors and the world we share, while seeking to create a more just Commonwealth. This shared ministry has perhaps never been so vital as now, in the face of pandemic, urgent challenges that threaten our communities here and around the globe, and a dangerous “othering” that prevents us from encountering Jesus in our neighbor and, possibly, preventing our neighbors from encountering Jesus in us.

Since the last assembly, LAMPa celebrated 41 years of advocacy ministry that supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, racial injustice, health care, human trafficking, election reforms that protect and expand voter participation, immigration, discrimination and hate crimes, criminal justice reform, environmental threats to health and safety, and an accurate Census. Our decades of advocacy on these issues have enabled us to lift up the needs of your ministries and communities to secure emergency food, shelter, access to medical care and other relief in response to COVID-19. Through these efforts, Lutherans in this synod spoke up with and on behalf of those who are suffering and whose interests were most likely to be overlooked in a time of chaos. LAMPa shared vital information with synods and our network about opportunities to access grants, assist people in applying for benefits and to offer resources in the state’s emergency response. Though much of our work has unleashed assistance directly to those in need, some – in the form of meals or other aid – has gone to your ministries, enabling you to be the visible presence of Christ as you encounter Christ in your neighbor at your doorstep and in each other as you continue teaching, preaching, singing and praying together virtually.

In its work of equipping disciples, growing leaders and supporting vital congregations, LAMPa staff continued teaching virtually – in congregations, seminary classes and synod events. We hosted a virtual hearing on the draft social statement on Government and Civic Engagement:

Discipleship in Democracy and will host listening sessions on the related social statement in this synod in the coming months. We are working with congregational leaders to prepare for God's work. Our hands. Our voices. Sunday in September and look forward with hope that we might be able to work side by side on that day.

We give thanks to God for you and for the support of our former Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod Policy Council representatives the Rev. Lydia Posselt and Diane Casey and for your new representative, Mr. Bruce McCullough.

With deep gratitude for all the ways in which you support LAMPa's ministry,

Tracey DePasquale,
Director

LUTHERAN ARCHIVES CENTER AT PHILADELPHIA

See Section G, Addendum 1

THE LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA

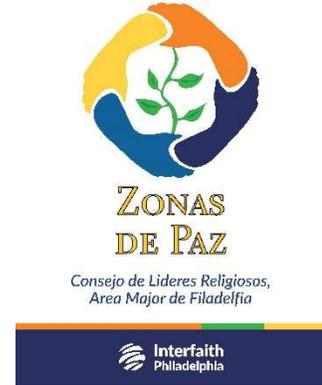
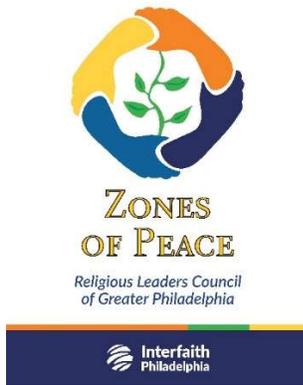
The COVID 19 Virus Pandemic has caused the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania to suspend normal operations until it is safe to resume. Regular pilgrimages are not possible, as most places visited are also closed. Medium and larger gatherings are prohibited. There have been no meetings. The society has no VITURAL capabilities at this time. We request your patience and regret not being able to serve you better. We thank everyone for your continued interest and support. You will be informed when we are again able to provide programs of interest to you. In the meantime, if you have any questions or suggestions please contact me at rbaumann@entermail.net, Tel. 610 821-1999. Thank you.

The Rev. Richard B. Baumann
President

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND

See Section G, Addendum 2

**THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS COUNCIL OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA
& ZONES OF PEACE INITIATIVE**



Report to the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

March 2021

Since its founding in 2006, the denominational leaders of this multi-faith table have honored their standing commitment to foster relationships of mutual support and solidarity with one another. The relationships within the Council enable it to fulfill its mission to be a moral and spiritual voice on the major issues facing our Community. Even during the pandemic, the Council has allied with civic and religious organizations to be present for prayer in neighborhood spaces and online through vigils, prayer services, and non-partisan sacred listening sessions. The Council continues to explore avenues that amplify equity and access through collaboration and policy reforms.

In 2009, as a way to be a force for good in Philadelphia and the surrounding region, the Council established *Zones of Peace* through which residents could find refuge and connection with allies working to break cycles of violence. The *Zones of Peace* initiative gives recognition and encouragement to houses of worship and community organizations that are exemplary, creative, and effective in addressing the root causes of violence. Over the past 12 years, 87 houses of worship and organizations have been nominated, vetted, and recognized. Several of the Synod's congregations have been honored as Zones of Peace, as well as the Lutheran Settlement House and The Village (one of the predecessor organizations combined to create GEMMA Services.)

Bishop Patricia Davenport is an active member of the Council. The Rev. Fritz Fowler represents the Bishop and our Synod on the Administrative Group of the Council. Both provide strong voices and wise counsel for their peers in multi-faith endeavors.

For more information go to <https://www.interfaithphiladelphia.org/council>

The Rev. Edward Livingston, Coordinator, The Religious Leaders Council

The Rev. John B. Hougen, Coordinator, Zones of Peace

PORTICO

See Section G, Addendum 3